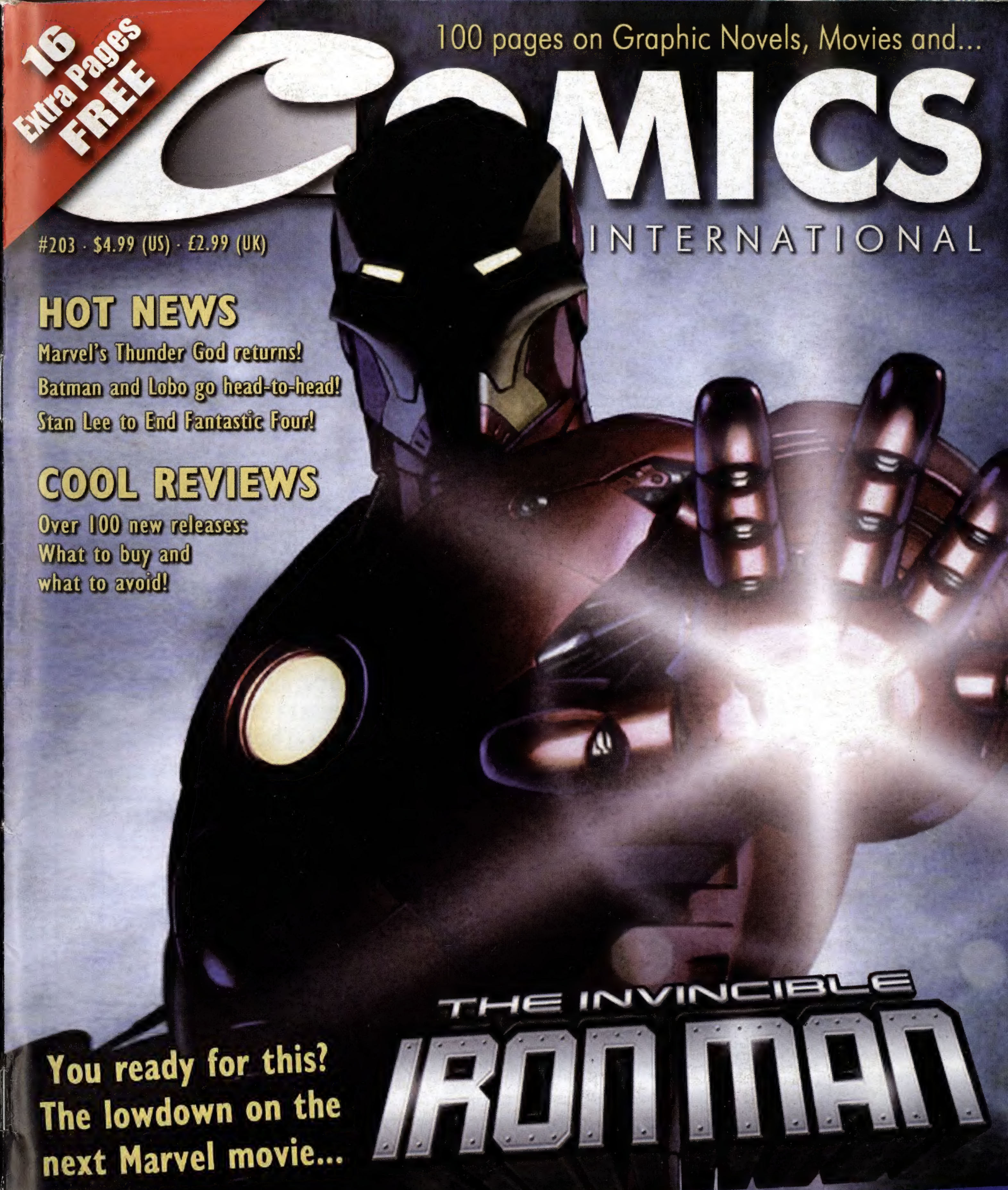


16 Extra Pages FREE

100 pages on Graphic Novels, Movies and...

COMICS INTERNATIONAL

#203 · $4.99 (US) · £2.99 (UK)

HOT NEWS

Marvel's Thunder God returns!

Batman and Lobo go head-to-head!

Stan Lee to End Fantastic Four!

COOL REVIEWS

Over 100 new releases:
What to buy and
what to avoid!

THE INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

You ready for this?
The lowdown on the
next Marvel movie...

PLUS!

In the can: Transformers

Metal Men remolded

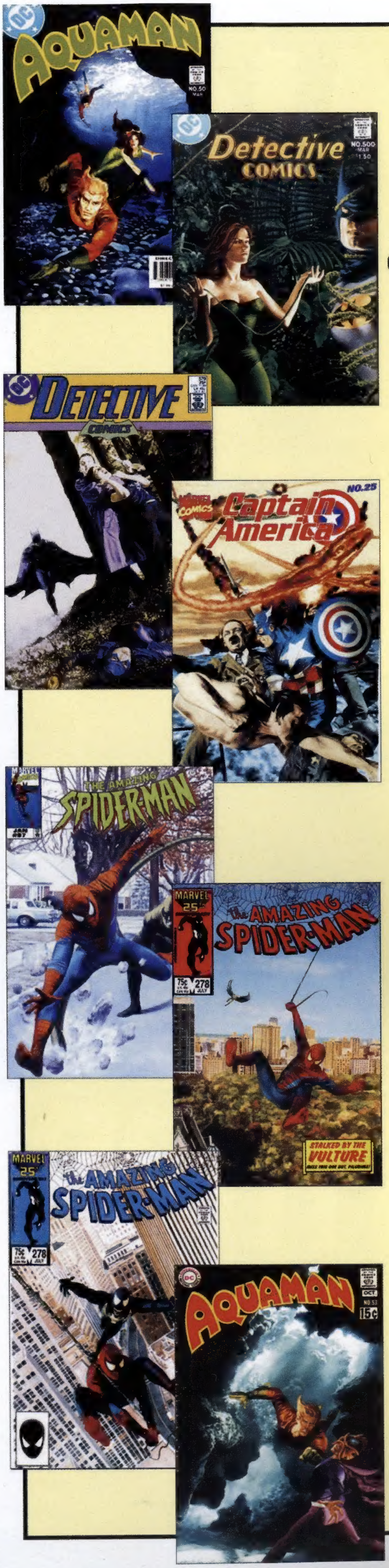
Black Knight rebirth

Gorillaz do Monkey

TV retro comics: The Prisoner!

ALICE
IN
Sunderland

15 copies to be won!


AQUAMAN
NO.50
Detective COMICS
NO.500
DETECTIVE COMICS
MARVEL COMICS
Captain America
NO.25
MARVEL
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
MARVEL 25
The AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
75¢ 278
STALKED BY THE VULTURE
MARVEL 25
The AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
75¢ 278
AQUAMAN
15¢

MISS ALL OF THESE BACK ISSUE GEMS?

That's okay, so did everybody else. They don't exist, except on the drawing board of top UK talent John Watson and on Dez Skinn's computer.

DON'T PANIC!

Prevent such shocks to your system with the comfort of being on the database of one of the industry's leading back issue dealers.

LET US DO THE WORK!

You're only three easy steps away from being able to fill those annoying gaps in your back issue comics collection . . .

1 Get in touch with COMIC BIZ! Phone us on 020 8446 3464 or fax us on 020 8446 2819 or send an e-mail to us at biz@comic-biz.com

2 Send us your Wants List, for us to enter and match with our state-of-the-art computerised inventory and price guide.

3 Now sit back and wait for the results. We'll fill your gaps to suit your pocket across your required time frame.

Alternatively, you can enter your wants list and order online at our secure website: www.comic-biz.com

"Probably Europe's Finest Subscription & Back Issue Service!"

COMIC BIZ™

COMIC BIZ
FREEPOST LON 6797,
PO BOX 7041, LONDON N12 9BR

Mail Order CoBRA Protection VISA SWITCH MasterCard DELTA Mail Order CoBRA Protection

CARDS NOT DEBITED UNTIL DESPATCH!

Tel: 020 8446 3464. Fax: 020 8446 2819. Website: www.comic-biz.com Email: biz@comic-biz.com

Characters and logos copyright their respective publishers. Images copyright John Watson/Quality Communications

Issue 203 August 2007

COMICS INTERNATIONAL

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL FEATURES:

Creators on Comics

MYSTIC ARCANA – **CI** Exclusive! Tarot deck designer David Sexton talks about writing his first Marvel project and reveals his plans for Magick, the Black Knight, the Scarlet Witch, Sister Grimm and Marvel Universe magic in general. 34

Summer Showcase Supplement

Movies and comics! Our bonus all-metal extravaganza is a 16-page insert focusing on three fully-armoured major projects clanking your way in the coming months:

TRANSFORMERS – Writing exclusively for **CI**, Transformers-meister Simon Furman provides a unique history of Hasbro's Robots in Disguise from action figures to comics to the big screen.

As a bonus **CI** exclusive, with more than 20 years of **Transformers** stories under his belt, the veteran writer also reviews the movie destined to be this summer's blockbuster. S2

IRON MAN – As we continue to shine the spotlight on comicbook movies in your future, director Jon Favreau and stars Robert Downey Jr and Jeff Bridges are among those discussing plans to bring Marvel's Armoured Avenger to the screen. S8

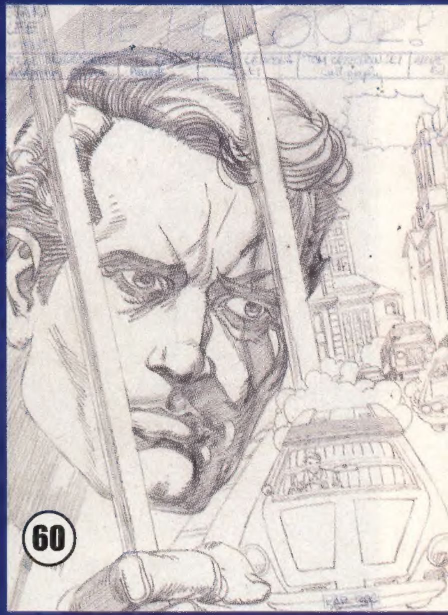
METAL MEN – **CI** Exclusive! In the wake of **52**, writer/artist Duncan Rouleau unveils his plans to resurrect Gold, Iron, Platinum and the rest of Doc Magnus's robotic creations. S13

Retrocomics

THE PRISONER – **CI**'s unique in-depth examination of TV SF in British comics continues with the second instalment of a two-parter spotlighting Patrick McGoohan. Following last issue's focus on *Danger Man* (aka *Secret Agent)*; we take a look at his groundbreaking 1967 creation, *The Prisoner*. 60

COMICS SPOTLIGHT

SPIN-OFF MOVIES



LOOKING BACK

COVERING THIS ISSUE...

COMICS
THEIR WAR.
OUR WORLD.
TRANSFORMERS

Metal movie mayhem!
From action figures to comics to the movies – Hasbro's Transformers head for big screen glory. S2

COMICS
MYSTIC ARCANA

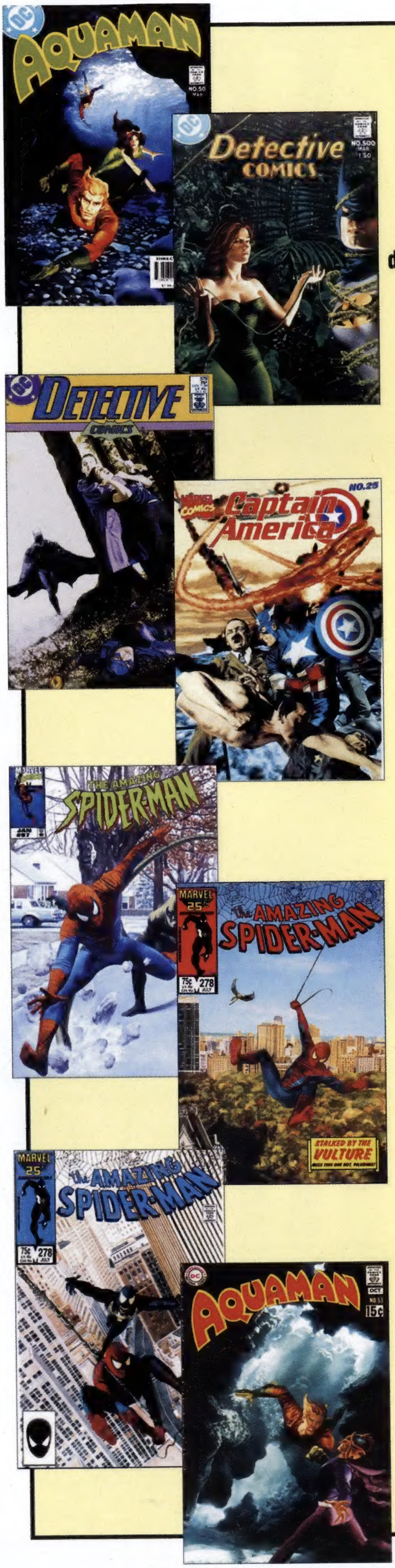
Marvel's magic mini!
Mystic Arcana looks to do for Marvel Universe magic what **Annihilation** did for Marvel's cosmic heroes. 34

COMICS
the Prisoner
at Marvel, DC and beyond

The Prisoner in comics!
TV SF in Comics part 7 – The history of Patrick McGoohan's enigmatic 1960s series comes under the spotlight 59

COMICS
THE INVINCIBLE
IRON MAN

Iron Man hits movie trail!
Marvel is lining up its Armoured Avenger to follow Spider-Man as its next major solo screen hero. S8


AQUAMAN
Detective COMICS
DETECTIVE COMICS
Captain America
NO.25
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
The AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
STALKED BY THE VULTURE
The AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
AQUAMAN

MISS ALL OF THESE BACK ISSUE GEMS?

That's okay, so did everybody else. They don't exist, except on the drawing board of top UK talent John Watson and on Dez Skinn's computer.

DON'T PANIC!

Prevent such shocks to your system with the comfort of being on the database of one of the industry's leading back issue dealers.

LET US DO THE WORK!

You're only three easy steps away from being able to fill those annoying gaps in your back issue comics collection . . .

1 Get in touch with COMIC BIZ! Phone us on 020 8446 3464 or fax us on 020 8446 2819 or send an e-mail to us at biz@comic-biz.com

2 Send us your Wants List, for us to enter and match with our state-of-the-art computerised inventory and price guide.

3 Now sit back and wait for the results. We'll fill your gaps to suit your pocket across your required time frame.

Alternatively, you can enter your wants list and order online at our secure website: www.comic-biz.com

"Probably Europe's Finest Subscription & Back Issue Service!"

COMIC BIZ™

COMIC BIZ
FREEPOST LON 6797,
PO BOX 7041, LONDON N12 9BR

CARDS NOT DEBITED UNTIL DESPATCH!

Tel: 020 8446 3464. Fax: 020 8446 2819. Website: www.comic-biz.com Email: biz@comic-biz.com

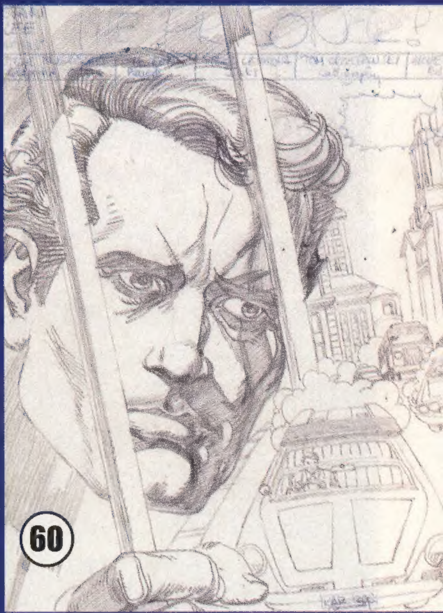
Characters and logos copyright their respective publishers. Images copyright John Watson/Quality Communications

Issue 203 August 2007

COMICS INTERNATIONAL

COMICS SPOTLIGHT

SPIN-OFF MOVIES



LOOKING BACK

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL FEATURES:

Creators on Comics

MYSTIC ARCANA – **CI** Exclusive! Tarot deck designer David Sexton talks about writing his first Marvel project and reveals his plans for Magick, the Black Knight, the Scarlet Witch, Sister Grimm and Marvel Universe magic in general. 34

Summer Showcase Supplement

Movies and comics! Our bonus all-metal extravaganza is a 16-page insert focusing on three fully-armoured major projects clanking your way in the coming months:

TRANSFORMERS – Writing exclusively for **CI**, Transformers-meister Simon Furman provides a unique history of Hasbro's Robots in Disguise from action figures to comics to the big screen.

As a bonus **CI** exclusive, with more than 20 years of **Transformers** stories under his belt, the veteran writer also reviews the movie destined to be this summer's blockbuster. S2

IRON MAN – As we continue to shine the spotlight on comicbook movies in your future, director Jon Favreau and stars Robert Downey Jr and Jeff Bridges are among those discussing plans to bring Marvel's Armoured Avenger to the screen. S8

METAL MEN – **CI** Exclusive! In the wake of **52**, writer/artist Duncan Rouleau unveils his plans to resurrect Gold, Iron, Platinum and the rest of Doc Magnus's robotic creations. S13

Retrocomics

THE PRISONER – **CI**'s unique in-depth examination of TV SF in British comics continues with the second instalment of a two-parter spotlighting Patrick McGoohan. Following last issue's focus on *Danger Man* (aka *Secret Agent)*; we take a look at his groundbreaking 1967 creation, *The Prisoner*. 60

COVERING THIS ISSUE...

COMICS
THEIR WAR.
OUR WORLD.
TRANSFORMERS

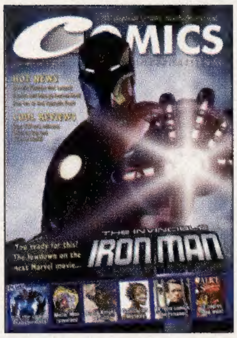
Metal movie mayhem! From action figures to comics to the movies – Hasbro's Transformers head for big screen glory. S2

COMICS
MYSTIC ARCANA

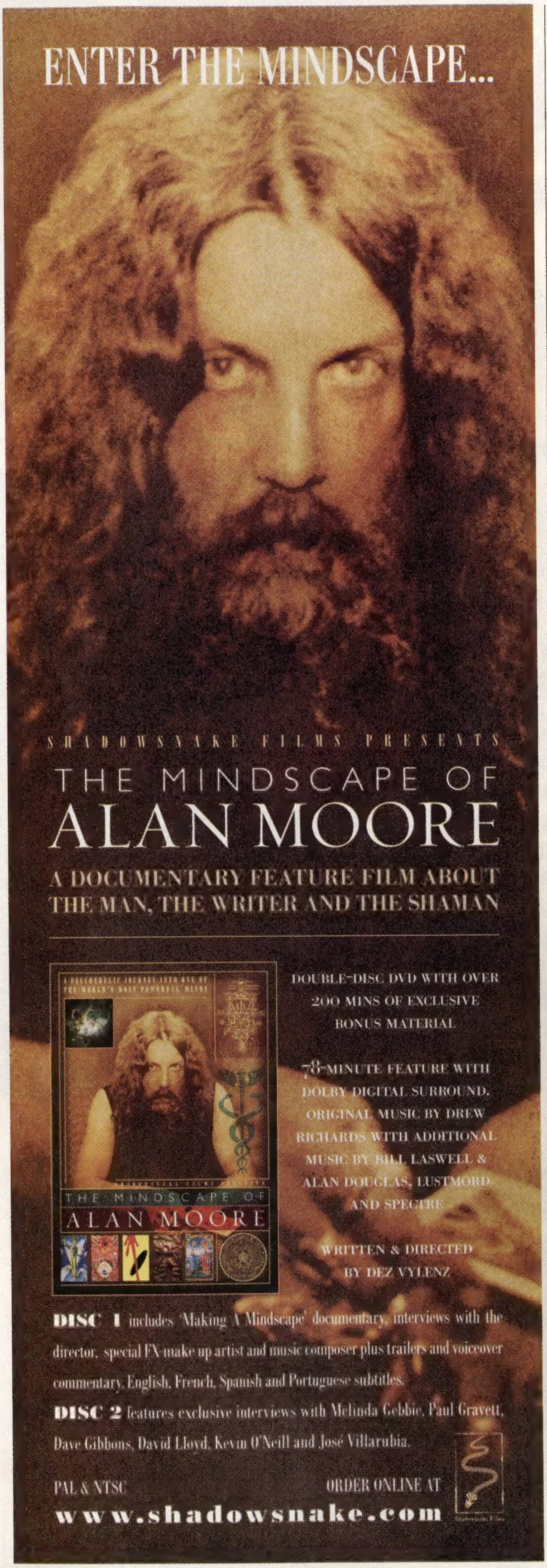
Marvel's magic mini! **Mystic Arcana** looks to do for Marvel Universe magic what **Annihilation** did for Marvel's cosmic heroes. 34

COMICS
the Prisoner
at Marvel, DC and beyond

The Prisoner in comics! TV SF in Comics part 7 – The history of Patrick McGoohan's enigmatic 1960s series comes under the spotlight 59



Iron Man hits movie trail! Marvel is lining up its Armoured Avenger to follow Spider-Man as its next major solo screen hero. S8



ENTER THE MINDSCAPE...

SHADOWSNAKE FILMS PRESENTS
THE MINDSCAPE OF
ALAN MOORE
A DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM ABOUT
THE MAN, THE WRITER AND THE SHAMAN

DOUBLE-DISC DVD WITH OVER 200 MINS OF EXCLUSIVE BONUS MATERIAL

78-MINUTE FEATURE WITH DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND. ORIGINAL MUSIC BY DREW RICHARDS WITH ADDITIONAL MUSIC BY BILL LASWELL & ALAN DOUGLAS, LUSTMORD AND SPECTRE

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY DEZ VYLENZ

DISC 1 includes 'Making A Mindscape' documentary, interviews with the director, special FX make up artist and music composer plus trailers and voiceover commentary. English, French, Spanish and Portuguese subtitles.

DISC 2 features exclusive interviews with Melinda Gebbie, Paul Gravett, Dave Gibbons, David Lloyd, Kevin O'Neill and José Villarubia.

PAL & NTSC

ORDER ONLINE AT
www.shadowsnake.com

NEWS & REVIEWS

News International 8
Seven pages of news from both sides of the Atlantic: Marvel's Thunder God returns from dead... **Maxx** creator sends Batman and Lobo head to head... Stan Lee writes final Fantastic Four story... **Transformers** relaunches from Titan... Two British publishers offer cash prizes in comics competitions... Gorillaz creator designs Monkey opera... plus much more.

Book Report 21
Histories, biographies, reference and art titles

News Round Up 23
Bits and pieces from hither and yon

People in the News 26
Industry comings and goings... promotions... exclusives... obituary – Massimo Bellardinelli

Preview 44
Grant Morrison is the subject of two outrageous extracts from **The Naked Artist**, Bryan Talbot's anecdote-packed expose of comic creators' antics

Reviews 51
Eight pages of capsule critiques from the **CI** reviews panel

COLUMNS

NetWorks 38
Graeme McMillan makes his **CI** debut with a sex-laden roundup of comics news and gossip from the Internet, plus Rich Johnston's award-winning *Lying in the Gutter*

Talking Shop 43
Cutting edge retailer Stephen Holland considers the alternatives to monthly comics

Novel Graphics 46
Renowned comics historian Paul Gravett shines the spotlight on **Luther Arkwright** creator Bryan Talbot and his latest opus, **Alice in Sunderland**

Frame to Frame 48
Comics to movies.. movies to comics... Mike Conroy comes over all DC with a look at what's going down with *Shazam!*, *Wonder Woman*, Green Arrow *and Metal Men*.

Biff's Illuminations 64
Veteran retailer Biff Averre offers his picks from the July and August releases

READER INTERACTION

Competitions: Over £600 of prizes to be won...

Bryan Talbot's latest hardcover graphic novel, **Alice in Sunderland** 13
Transformers titles: **The Movie Guide** and **The Ultimate Guide** 15
Star Wars: The Ultimate Guide – Special Edition 21

Letters 84
Readers write

Classified 97
For sale, wanted ads and announcements – free to private advertisers

LISTINGS

Comics Economics 50
The top 100 sellers for February as well as March (page 81) and April (82)

Advance Listings 65
US and international English-language comics on sale in specialist shops in July and August, plus the month's UK newsstand titles

Internet Index 93
Your guide to exploring the industry in cyberspace!

Store Index 94
Where they are, what they stock and when they open!

Mail Order Index 95
If there's no specialist shop near you, you need to check this out!

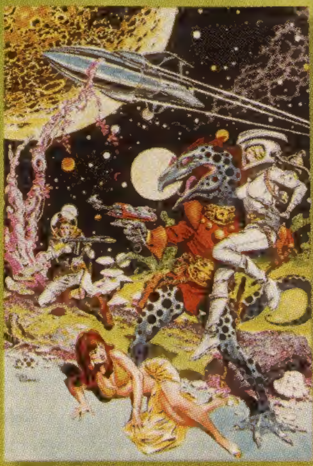
Publisher Index 96
Your guide to the top publishers from around the world.

International Festivals 97
For all you jetsetters, the world's major comics events

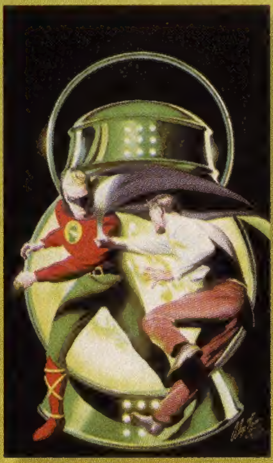
Events Guide 98
Key comic events in the UK from July to November

HERITAGE AUCTION OF ORIGINAL COMIC ART:

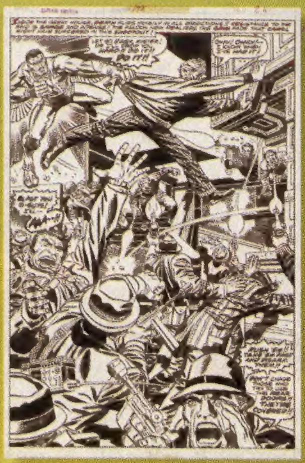
AUGUST 2-4 LIVE AND VIA INTERNET



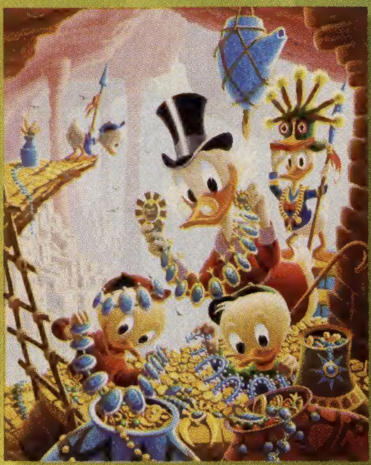
WILLIAMSON



ROSS

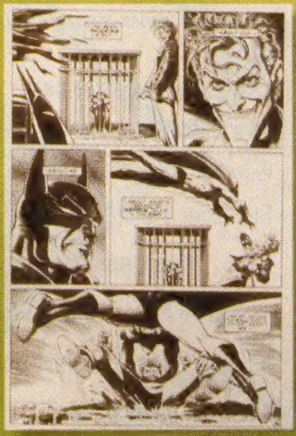


KIRBY

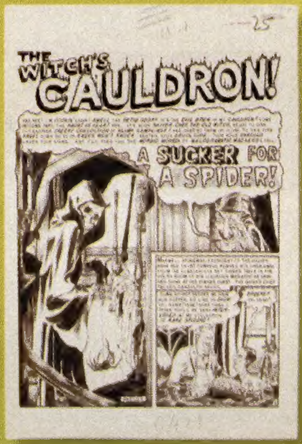


BARKS

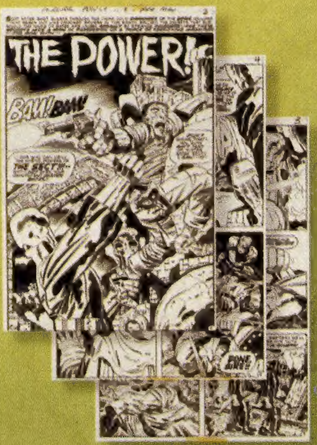
These are just a few of the highlights of this multi-million-dollar event with over 2,500 lots of vintage comics and original art.
High resolution images of every lot available for viewing at HA.com



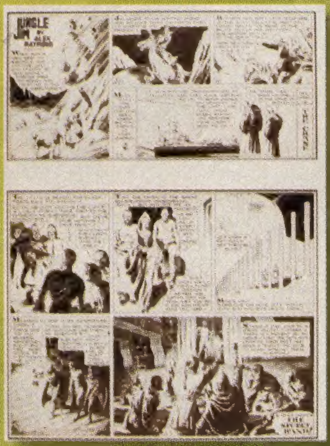
BRIAN BOLLAND "KILLING JOKE"


THE WITCH'S CAULDRON!
A SUCKER FOR A SPIDER!

"TALES FROM THE CRYPT" BY INGELS - 7 PGS.



KIRBY "FOREVER PEOPLE" #8 COMPLETE STORY



JUNGLE JIM/ FLASH GORDON BY ALEX RAYMOND

We ship worldwide.
Place secret proxy bids in advance at HA.com.
Registering to bid is free and quick, see free catalog offer below!

3500 Maple Avenue,
17th Floor
Dallas, Texas 75219
U.S.A.
+1 214 528 3500
HA.com

To discuss selling your vintage comics, pulps, or original art in a Heritage auction, contact:
Ed Jaster +1 214 252 4288 - EdJ@HA.com
Lon Allen +1 214 252 4261 - LonA@HA.com

To receive a complimentary copy of this catalog, register online at HA.com/COMI7325 or call +1 214 528 3500, ext. 150 and mention reference #COMI7325.

HERITAGE HA.com
Auction Galleries
The World's Largest Collectibles Auctioneer

300,000+ Registered Online Bidder-Members
Annual Sales Exceeding $500 Million

Isennock Auction Participating Auctioneer • This auction is subject to a 19.5% buyer's premium.

7325

THE OFFICAL ADAPTATION OF THE SUMMER'S LONG-AWAITED BLOCKBUSTER MOVIE

TRANSFORMERS™
MOVIE ADAPTATION

ON SALE JUNE 2007

TRANSFORMERS: MOVIE ADAPTATION TRADE PAPERBACK
ISBN: 978-1-60010-067-3 • $17.99

TRANSFORMERS: MOVIE PREQUEL TRADE PAPERBACK
$19.99 • ISBN: 978-1-60010-066-6

COMIC SHOP LOCATOR SERVICE
888-COMIC-BOOK
comicshoplocator.com

IDW

www.IDWPUBLISHING.com

HASBRO and its logo, TRANSFORMERS, and all related characters are trademarks of Hasbro and are used with permission. © 2007 Hasbro. All Rights Reserved. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. All Rights Reserved.

ADVERTISING

Telephone: 01322 337 040

Published since 1990, **Comics International** is the de facto bible of the industry. With its short lead times, it can get your ad to the entire comics community of publishers, creators, retailers and fans within two weeks of submission. Rates and data available upon request. Call 01322 340 207 or email advertising@comics-international.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Telephone: 01621 877 231

8 Galliford Rd, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD

Subscriptions Manager: Jade Wheldon

UK	£45 (1st class) £36 (2nd class)
USA/Canada	$140 US (air) $110 US (sea)
Mainland Europe & Eire	**£60/**€85 (air only)
Australasia/Asia	$140 US (air) $110 US (sea)

All subscription prices are for 12 issues.

DISTRIBUTION

Telephone: 01621 877 231

8 Galliford Rd, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD

Available direct to UK retailers, minimum order 25 copies to receive wholesale discount. Copies are despatched free by courier to arrive simultaneously at all retail outlets. Also available to the trade internationally from Diamond Comics Distributors (UK telephone: 01925 401400; for the US telephone: 1-410-560 7112)

EDITORIAL

Telephone: 01322 337 040

From North America replace the 0 with: 011 44

editorial@comics-international.co.uk

***PO Box 9844
Colchester, Essex CO1 9EE***

Comics International is published every four weeks by Cosmic Publications Ltd and is printed by Scottish County Press (0131 663 2404)

Publisher: **Peter Boyce**

Editor: **Mike Conroy**

Associate Editor: **Richard Burton**

Reviews Editor: **Loriann Luckings**

Listings: **Jim Hannah**

Contributors to this issue: **Martin "Biff" Averre, John Freeman, Paul Gravett, Stephen Holland, Rich Johnston, Graeme McMillan, Joel Meadows, David Roach, Dez Skinn, Peter Stanbury** and **Ian Wheeler**

Print Liaison: **Alastair Purves**

Webmaster: **Glenn Carter**

Comics International
created by Dez Skinn

All illustrations reproduced herein remain the property of their respective copyright holders and are used only in a news or review capacity. No infringement of copyright is intended.

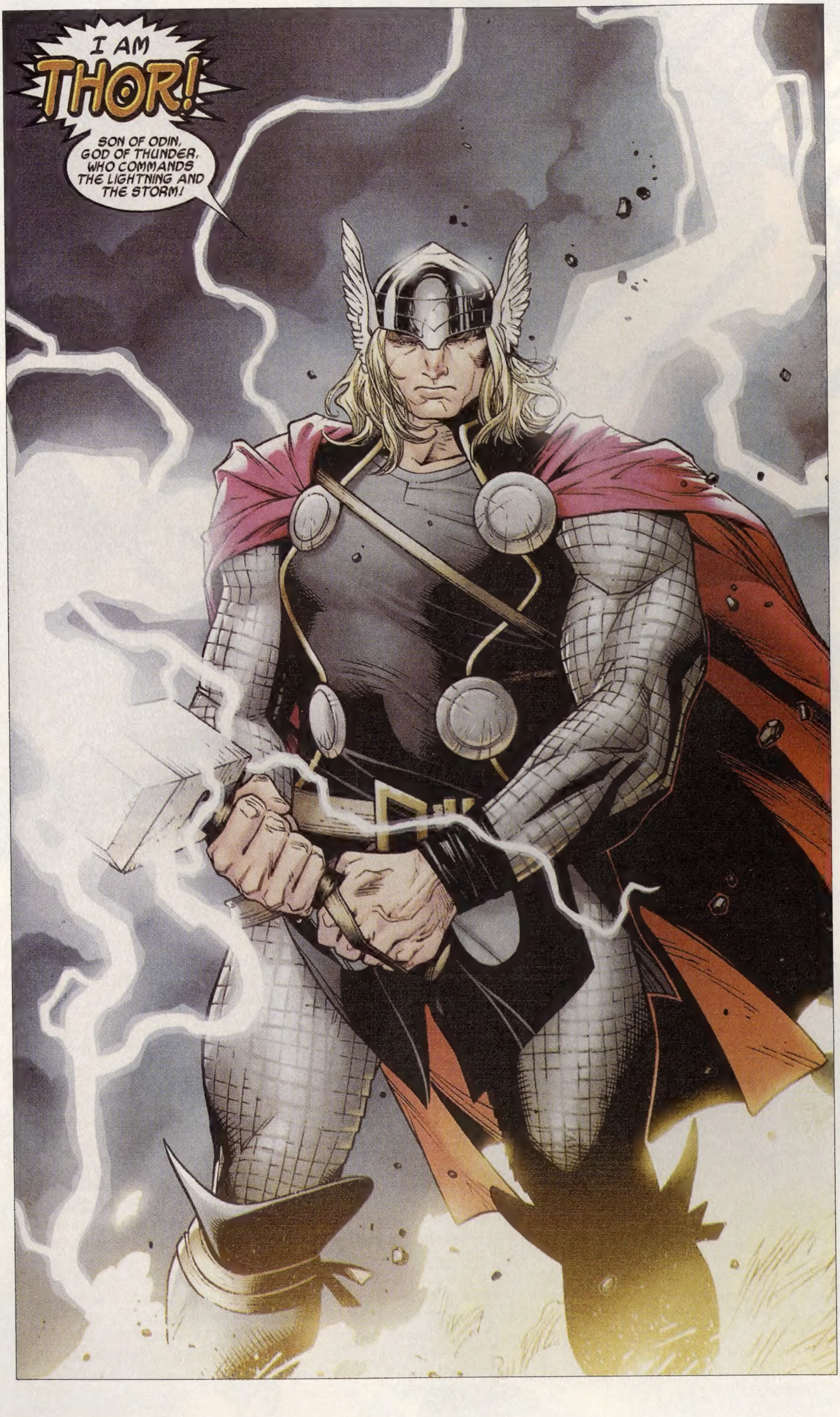
COSMIC

DISCOVER
HEROES
DISCOVER
DARK
HORSE
FEAR AGENT
DARK HORSE COMICS
DISCOVER

visit discover.darkhorse.com to get more information!

Text and illustrations of Fear Agent™ © 2007 Rick Remender & Tony Moore. Dark Horse Comics® and the Dark Horse logo are trademarks of Dark Horse Comics, Inc., registered in various categories and countries. All rights reserved.

Thunder God resurrected


I AM THOR!
SON OF ODIN, GOD OF THUNDER, WHO COMMANDS THE LIGHTNING AND THE STORM!

THOR is set to make his long-anticipated return to the Marvel Universe after being absent for more than two years.

Missing and thought dead since 2004's **Thor** #85, the Thunder God's resurrection was presaged by the appearance of his hammer falling to Earth (in **Fantastic Four** #536) and the introduction – in **Civil War** #4 – of a murderous cyborg Thor clone who died by Hercules' hand three issues later.

Spearheading the real Thor's comeback is **Amazing Spider-Man** writer J Michael Straczynski. He is relaunching the Thunder God's own title in tandem with Olivier Coipel, the French artist whose credits include **Avengers** and **The Legion** for DC.

Explaining how he intends to resurrect the Thunder God, the writer said, "The first issue finds Thor in what is essentially a kind of limbo, between life and death and something greater and more profound. He is offered both an opportunity, and a challenge, a chance to fight his way back to finish the work he began.

"We are also using the same process to re-introduce Donald Blake, who raises the question: 'Is it for the gods to say when men die, or for men to say when the gods die?' Answering that question is a large part of what propels Thor back into the world of the living," added Straczynski, who is also currently writing Marvel's **Silver Surfer: Requiem** four-parter.

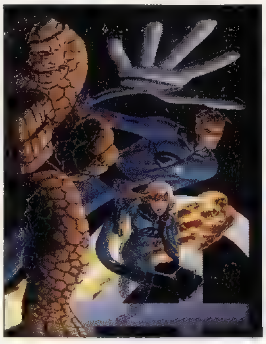
Asgard, Oklahoma

As depicted in **FF** #536, Mjolnir (Thor's hammer) landed in the American Mid-West, a point that Straczynski is building on in his new series. "A large part of the story involves both rediscovering and reinterpreting his godhood, but also re-acquiring his ties to humanity, since it was that love of our species that has kept him here for so long.

"He needs – wants – to bring back Asgard, but wants it closer than before to his beloved home Earth. He feels that they have lost something by being so removed," revealed the writer. "So he begins that process, selecting Oklahoma for a number of reasons including the fact that it has vast open spaces that are large enough to accommodate the primary city of Asgard. Any place else would get flattened. And putting it somewhere in Antarctica would defeat the larger point."

*LEFT: A story page from the first issue of Marvel's relaunched **Thor**; art by Olivier Coipel. The $2.99 comic is available now.*

Stan Lee puts end to Fantastic Four



*Above: John Romita Jr's cover art for **The Last Fantastic Four Story**. Written by Stan Lee, the 64-page Marvel one-shot ships on August 1, priced $4.99.*

THE LATEST addition to Marvel's **The End** line effectively brings the Marvel Universe full circle.

Entitled **The Last Fantastic Four Story** (because **Fantastic Four: The End** was already taken – by Alan Davis for a six-parter released earlier this year), it gives Stan Lee the chance to write the final chapter in the life of the team with which he and artist Jack Kirby kick started the Marvel Universe in 1961.

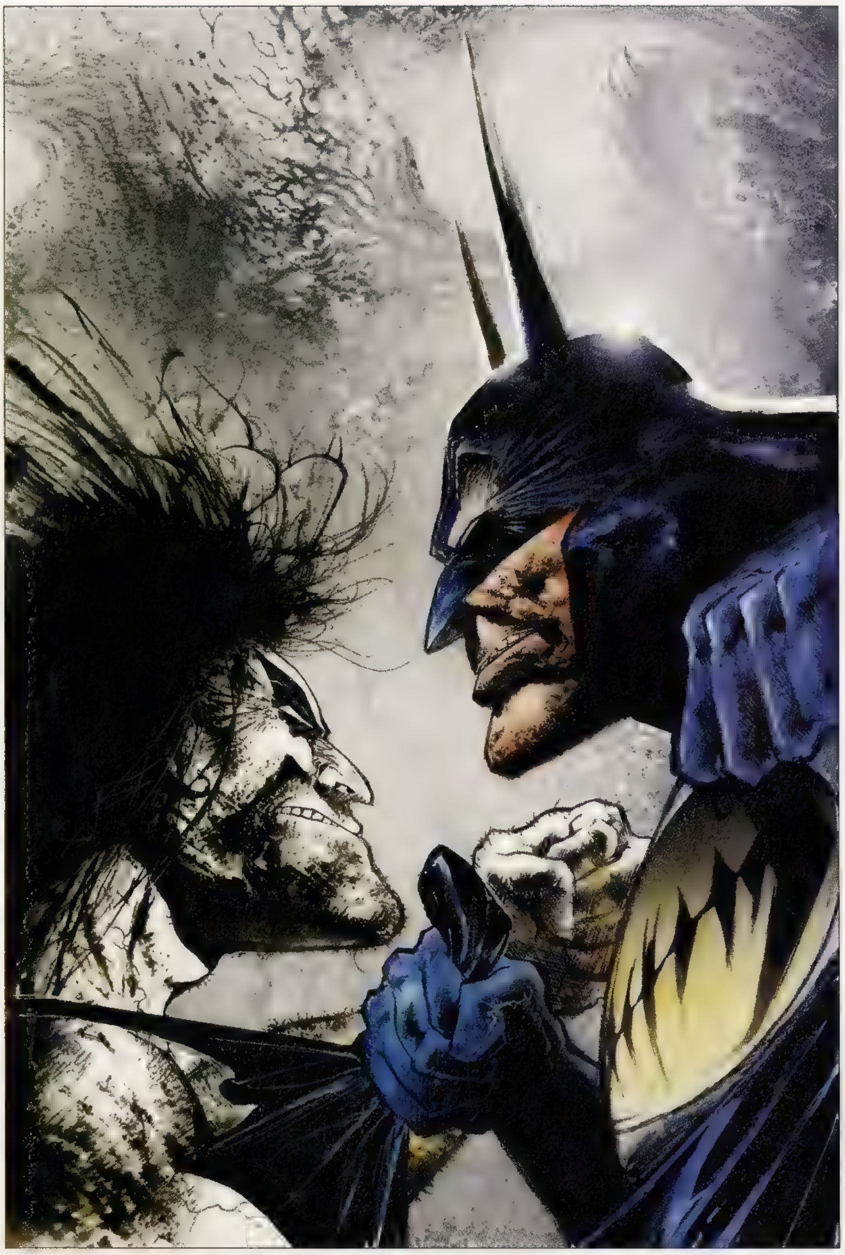
Joining Lee on the 64-pager is **Amazing Spider-Man** and **Eternals** artist John Romita Jr of whom the writer said, "I hate to use a cliché, but it was a dream come true. John Jr is the most worthy heir to the legend of his dad that you could ever find. Unfortunately for me, he came on the scene after I had pretty much stopped writing series for Marvel and we never had a chance to work together. But now I can always say I've worked with *two* of the finest artists in all of comicdom."

Referring to the plot outline, Romita Jr – who is currently pencilling **World War Hulk** – revealed, "It's a very Stan Lee/Jack Kirby-esque type of story. A cast of hundreds... Galactus... the Surfer... Spider-Man... the Avengers... Namor... an alien threat to the world. It's great!"

A 64-page one-shot, **The Last Fantastic Four Story** ships on August 1, priced $4.99.

THE NEXT BREED
SILVER STAR
TM
A VISUAL NOVEL
MEET MORGAN MILLER: HOMO GENETICUS!

*DISMISSED when first released as a pale shadow of his greatest works, Jack Kirby's **Silver Star** has always been viewed as a weak last gasp by a fading comics genius. Thanks to Image, today's comicbook fans will get the opportunity to judge the work for themselves this August when all six issues of the creator-owned series launched by Pacific Comics in 1983 are collected in a 144-page hardcover. Priced $39.99, **Jack Kirby's Silver Star** [cover above] chronicles the rise of Homo-Geneticus, a New Breed of humanity, genetically altered to survive an impending holocaust.*



Kieth gets Deadly Serious with Batman and Lobo

BATMAN
LOBO

*Above: The cover to **Batman/Lobo**, DC's 2000 one-shot; art by Simon Bisley. Top: Sam Kieth's art for the cover to the first 48-page issue of his **Batman/Lobo: Deadly Serious** two-parter.*

SEVEN years after he first fought the Last Czarnian, Batman is once again forced to face the mercurial interstellar assassin known as Lobo.

Unlike last time when the duo battled across the length of a 52-page *Elseworlds* one-shot in a tussle orchestrated by Alan Grant and artist Simon Bisley (two creators closely linked to Lobo), this rematch occurs within DC Universe continuity. A prestige format two-parter capitalising on the antihero's high-profile role in the recently concluded **52**, the new **Batman/Lobo** is subtitled **Deadly Serious**.

The mini, which premieres on August 22, is written and illustrated by Sam Kieth. **The Maxx** creator – who signed exclusively to DC last year – is returning to a concept he was first involved with in 1993. At that point he was collaborating with **Batman**'s Kelley Jones on the art for a **Batman vs Lobo** comic. The project – written by Keith Giffen and Grant – never saw the light of day.

Fast forward to 2007 and Kieth is following his **Batman: Secrets** mini with a story that strands both the Dark Knight and Lobo on an alien spaceship. When they learn the craft is plague-infested, the pair realise they need to discover a way to work together to find a cure – and the real reason for their abductions – before they kill each other.

- Kieth is also working on **My Inner Bimbo** for Oni. Launched in 2006, it remains incomplete – possibly as a result of his DC exclusive – with only one issue published in over a year.

"AWESOME...IT TRULY

TRANSF

PARAMOUNT PICTURES AND DREAMWORKS PICTURES PRESENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH HASBRO A DI BONAVENTURA PICTURES PRODUCTION A TOM DESANTO/DON MURPHY PRODUCTION A MICHAEL BAY FILM 'TRANSFORMERS' SHIA LABEOUF TYRESE GIBSO

COSTUME DESIGNER DEBORAH L. SCOTT EDITED BY PAUL RUBELL, A.C.E. GLEN SCANTLEBURY PRODUCTION DESIGNER JEFF MANN DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MITCHELL AMUNDSEN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS STEVEN SPIELBERG MICHAEL BAY BRIAN GOLDNER MARK VAHRADIAN PRODUCED BY D

DREAMWORKS PICTURES

SOUNDTRACK AVAILABLE ON WARNER BROS. RECORDS

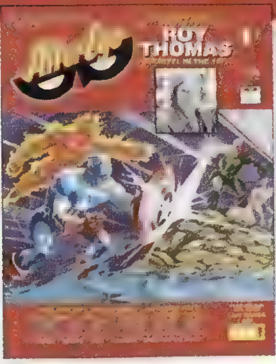
ST AD

TEXT 'GO TRANSFORM' TO 85080 FOR FREE
TRANSFORMERS MOBILE DOWNLOADS

PREVIEWS JULY 21 & 22 • AT

DELIVERS"
★★★★
IAN NATHAN, EMPIRE
"SEEING THIS IS A MUST... NON-STOP ROBOT DESTRUCTION TO THE FINAL SMACKDOWN"
FHM
A MICHAEL BAY FILM
ORMERS
12A CONTAINS MODERATE ACTION VIOLENCE
DUHAMEL ANTHONY ANDERSON MEGAN FOX RACHAEL TAYLOR WITH JOHN TURTURRO AND JON VOIGHT CASTING BY JANET HIRSHENSON CSA & JANE JENKINS CSA SPECIAL VISUAL EFFECTS BY INDUSTRIAL LIGHT & MAGIC MUSIC BY STEVE JABLONSKY MUSIC SUPERVISOR DAVE JORDAN
DESANTO LORENZO DI BONAVENTURA IAN BRYCE BASED ON HASBRO'S TRANSFORMERS ACTION FIGURES STORY BY JOHN ROGERS AND ROBERTO ORCI & ALEX KURTZMAN SCREENPLAY BY ROBERTO ORCI & ALEX KURTZMAN DIRECTED BY MICHAEL BAY
KIN PARK 'WHAT I'VE DONE' AVAILABLE ON 'MINUTES TO MIDNIGHT' ALBUM NOW & 'TRANSFORMERS (MUSIC FROM AND INSPIRED BY)' OUT JULY 16TH
VIDEO GAME OUT 27TH JULY FOR PS3, PS2, PSP, X360, NDS, WII & PC
www.ParamountPictures.co.uk
www.thetransformersmovie.co.uk
© 2007 Paramount Pictures Corporation and DreamWorks LLC. All Rights Reserved.
CINEMAS EVERYWHERE JULY 27

GREAT NEW STUFF FROM TWOMORROWS!



ALTER EGO #70

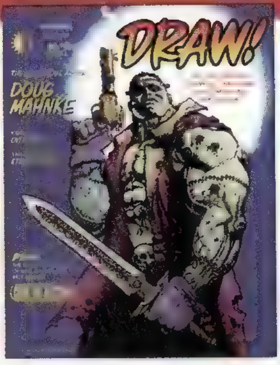
Spotlight on **ROY THOMAS'** 1970s stint as Marvel's editor-in-chief and major writer, plus art and Roy's reminiscences of **GIL KANE, BOTH BUSCEMAS, ADAMS, ROMITA, CHAYKIN, BRUNNER, PLOOG, EVERETT, WRIGHTSON, PÉREZ, ROBBINS, BARRY WINDSOR-SMITH, STAN LEE** and others, **FCA, MR. MONSTER,** a new **GENE COLAN** cover, plus a **FREE ROUGH STUFF #5 PREVIEW!**

(100-page magazine) **$16 SURFACE**
Diamond Order Code: **MAY073879**

ROUGH STUFF #5

NEVER-BEFORE-PUBLISHED art galleries (complete with extensive commentaries by the artists) by **PAUL SMITH, GIL KANE, CULLY HAMNER, DALE KEOWN,** and **ASHLEY WOOD,** plus a feature interview and art by **STEVE RUDE,** an examination of **JOHN ALBANO** and **TONY DeZUNIGA'S** work on DC's Jonah Hex, a new **STEVE RUDE COVER,** plus a **FREE BACK ISSUE #23 PREVIEW!**

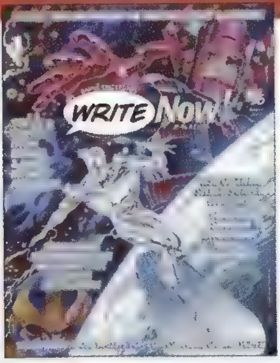
(100-page magazine) **$16 SURFACE**
Diamond Order Code: **MAY073902**



DRAW! #14

Features in-depth interviews and step-by-step demos with DC Comics artist **DOUG MAHNKE, OVI NEDELCU** (Pigtale, WB Animation), **STEVE PURCELL** (Sam and Max), plus Part 3 of editor **MIKE MANLEY** and **BRET BLEVINS' COMIC ART BOOTCAMP** on "Using Black to Power up Your Pages", product reviews, a new **MAHNKE** cover, and a **FREE ALTER EGO #70 PREVIEW!**

(84-page magazine) **$16 SURFACE**
Diamond Order Code: **MAY073896**



WRITE NOW! #16

An in-depth **TODD McFARLANE** interview, **STAN LEE, STEVE ENGLEHART, JIM STARLIN, GEORGE PÉREZ,** and **J.M. DeMATTEIS** on writing the Silver Surfer, Nuts and Bolts script and pencil art from **BRIAN BENDIS** and **FRANK CHO'S MIGHTY AVENGERS** and from **DAN SLOTT'S AVENGERS: THE INITIATIVE, STAR TREK** comics writers' roundtable Part 2, cover by **MIKE ZECK,** plus a **FREE DRAW #14 PREVIEW!**

(84-page magazine) **$16 SURFACE**
Diamond Order Code: **MAY073903**

BACK ISSUE #23

Comics Go Hollywood! Spider-Man roundtable with **STAN LEE, JOHN ROMITA, SR., JIM SHOOTER, ERIK LARSEN,** and others, **STAR TREK** comics writers' roundtable Part 1, Gladstone's Disney comics line, behind-the-scenes at TV's **ISIS** and **THE FLASH** (plus an interview with Flash's **JOHN WESLEY SHIPP**), TV tie-in comics, bonus 8-page color **ADAM HUGHES ART GALLERY** and cover, plus a **FREE WRITE NOW #16 PREVIEW!**

(108-page magazine) **$16 SURFACE**
Diamond Order Code: **MAY073880**

JOHN ROMITA... & ALL THAT JAZZ!

The artist who made **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** Marvel's #1-selling comic book in the 1960s talks about his life, his art, and his contemporaries! Authored by former Marvel Comics editor in chief and top writer **ROY THOMAS,** and noted historian **JIM AMASH,** it features the most definitive interview Romita's ever given, about working with **STAN LEE** and **JACK KIRBY,** following Spider-Man co-creator **STEVE DITKO** as artist on the strip, and more! Lavishly illustrated with Romita art, it's a career overview of a comics master, and a firsthand history of the industry by one of its leading artists! Available in Softcover and Hardcover (with 16 extra color pages, dust jacket, and custom endleaves).

(192-page trade paperback)
$41 SURFACE
ISBN 9781893905757
Diamond Order Code: APR074018

(208-page hardcover w/ COLOR)
$61 SURFACE
ISBN: 9781893905764
Diamond Order Code: APR074019

IMAGE COMICS
THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE

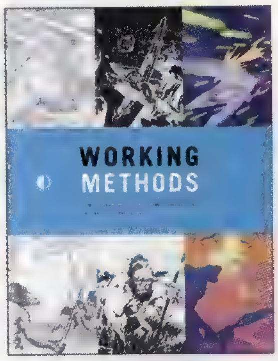
In 1992, seven artists shook the comic book industry when they left their top-selling Marvel Comics titles to jointly form a new company named **IMAGE COMICS! IMAGE COMICS: THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE** is an unprecedented look at the history of this company, featuring interviews and art from popular Image founders **ERIK LARSEN, JIM LEE, TODD MCFARLANE, WHILCE PORTACIO, MARC SILVESTRI** and **JIM VALENTINO.** Also featured are many of finest creators who over the last fifteen years have been a part of the Image family, offering behind-the-scenes details of the company's successes and failures. There's rare and unseen art, making this the most honest exploration ever taken of the controversial company whose success, influence and high production values changed the landscape of comics forever! Written by **GEORGE KHOURY.** Introduction by **DAVE SIM.**

(280-page trade paperback)
$51 SURFACE
ISBN: 9781893905719
Diamond Order Code: MAR073745

BRUSH STROKES WITH GREATNESS: THE LIFE & ART OF JOE SINNOTT

During his 56-plus-year career in comic books, **JOE SINNOTT** has worked in every genre, from 1940s Timely Comics to Charlton Comics, Treasure Chest, and Dell as a top penciler. But his association with Marvel Comics in the '60s as its top inker cemented his place in comics history. This book celebrates his career, as he demonstrates his passion for his craft, sharing his experiences working on Marvel's leading titles with **STAN LEE** and **JACK KIRBY,** and rare and unpublished artwork from his personal files. It features dozens of colleagues and co-workers paying tribute to Joe, plus an extended Art Gallery, and a Checklist of his career. Written by **TIM LASIUTA,** with a Foreword by **STAN LEE,** and Afterword by **MARK EVANIER.**

(136-page trade paperback)
$34 SURFACE
ISBN 9781893905726
Diamond Order Code: MAR073744



WORKING METHODS

Art professor **JOHN LOWE** puts the minds of comic artists under the microscope, highlighting the intricacies of their storytelling and creative processes step-by-step. For this book, three short scripts are each interpreted in different ways by professional comic artists to illustrate the varied ways in which they "see" and "solve" the problem of making a script succeed in comic form. It documents the creative and technical choices **MARK SCHULTZ, TIM LEVINS, JIM MAHFOOD, SCOTT HAMPTON, KELSEY SHANNON, CHRIS BRUNNER, SEAN MURPHY,** and **PAT QUINN** make as they tell a story, allowing comic fans, artists, instructors and students into a world rarely explored Hundreds of illustrated examples document the artists' processes, and interviews clarify their individual approaches regarding storytelling and layout choices

(176-page trade paperback)
$38 SURFACE
ISBN 9781893905733
Diamond Order Code: MAR073747

MODERN MASTERS VOLUME 12: MICHAEL GOLDEN

Features an extensive, career-spanning interview lavishly illustrated with rare art from Golden's files, plus an enormous sketchbook section, including unseen and unused art!

(120-page trade paperback)
$31 SURFACE
ISBN 9781893905740
Diamond Order Code: APR074023

MODERN MASTERS: MICHAEL GOLDEN DVD

Shows the artist at work, discussing his art and career!

(120-minute Std Format DVD)
$39 SURFACE
ISBN:
9781893905771
Diamond Order Code: **MAY073780**

FOR AIRMAIL: Magazines and DVDs: add $2 per item • Books: add $10 per item

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

JACK KIRBY COLLECTOR: Four tabloid issues: $76 Surface, $120 Airmail.

BACK ISSUE!: Six issues: $90 Surface, $108 Airmail.

DRAW!, WRITE NOW!, ROUGH STUFF: Four issues: $60 Surface, $72 Airmail.

ALTER EGO: Twelve issues: $180 Surface, $216 Airmail.
FOR A SIX-ISSUE ALTER EGO SUBSCRIPTION, JUST CUT THE PRICE IN HALF!

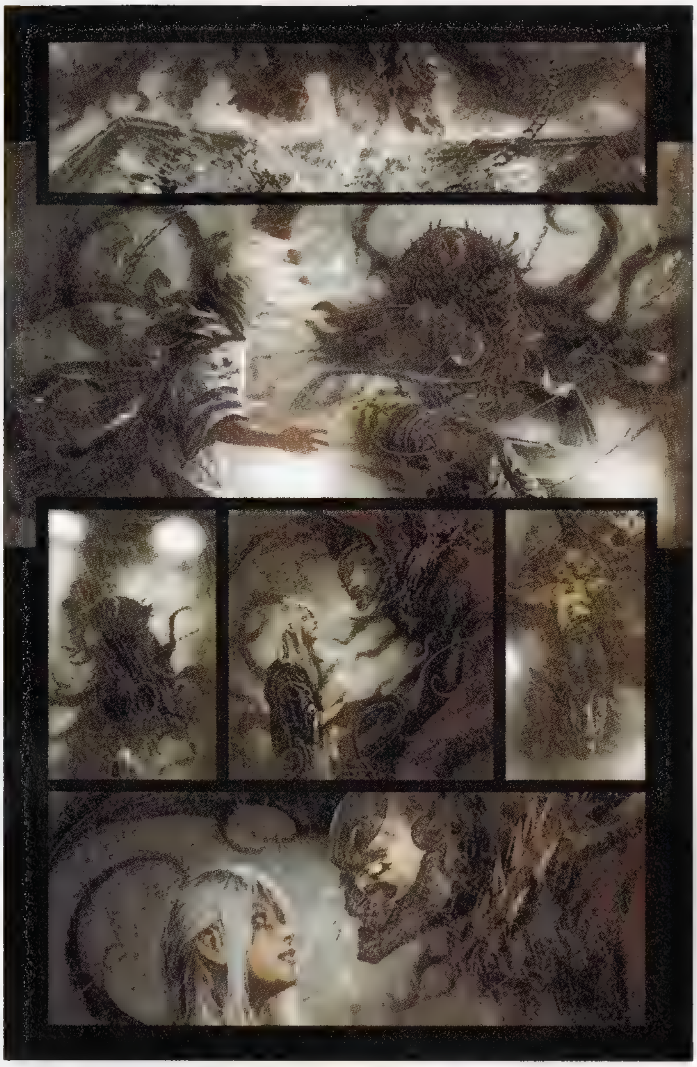
TNT TwoMorrows News Today BLOG

For the latest news from TwoMorrows Publishing, log on to
www.twomorrows.com/tnt

TwoMorrows. Celebrating The Art & History Of Comics. PayPal VISA MasterCard

TwoMorrows • 10407 Bedfordtown Drive • Raleigh, NC 27614 USA • 919-449-0344 • FAX: 919-449-0327 • E-mail: twomorrow@aol.com • www.twomorrows.com

McFarlane unveils fearsome architects



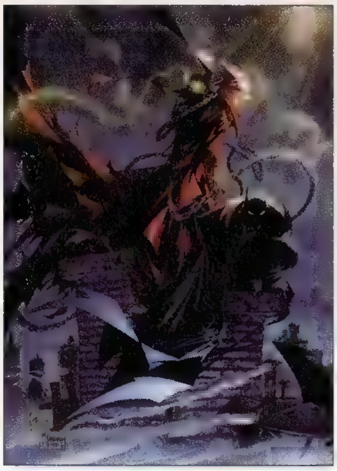
WHILE Todd McFarlane's profile-boosting return to comics on **Spawn & Batman: Inner Demons** is now running more than six months late, the Canadian writer/artist-turned entrepreneur is still moving ahead with other plans to revitalise his moribund line of titles.

With the core **Spawn** title currently undergoing a critically acclaimed reboot at the hands of British writer David Hine and artist Brian Haberlin, the Image co-founder is to launch the third spin-off of 2007 from his flagship title. Lined up to follow the 48-page web comic collection, **Adventures of Spawn (Director's Cut)** and Brian Holguin and artist Philip Tan's **Spawn: Godslayer** (which debuted in May) is **Spawn: Architect of Fear**.

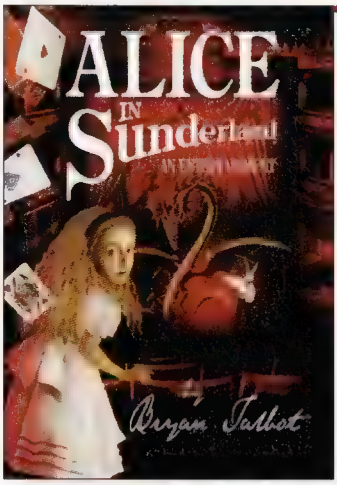
Written by newcomer Arthur Claire, the 56-pager *[see interior art, above]* ships in September, priced $6.99. It is drawn by Aleksi Briclot, the French artist who also illustrated 2004's 68-page **Spawn: Simony**.

The one-shot introduces the Caste of Architects – who coerce Spawn into retrieving the Horsaak-El for them. For centuries these elite Angels have deployed their living weapon to absorb the souls of the damned to keep them from joining the armies of Hell. But now it has gone rogue, preying on the souls of the innocent.

To ensure his co-operation with their scheme, the Caste has placed Spawn's own brother in Horsaak-El's path.



*Above: The cover art for Image's **Spawn/ Batman: Inner Demons** by Greg Capullo and Todd McFarlane. Pencilled by Capullo and written and inked by McFarlane, the $6.99 56-pager was lined up to ship in December. Already more than six months late, it is currently unscheduled.*



15 HARDCOVERS TO BE WON!

*JONATHAN Cape and **CI** are teaming up to offer readers the chance to win one of 15 hardcover copies of the latest opus from Bryan Talbot, the award-winning creator of **The Adventures of Luther Arkwright** and **The Tale of One Bad Rat**.*

*Available now, the 11x7½" **Alice in Sunderland: An Entertainment** is priced £16.99. Using a diverse range of storytelling techniques, across the graphic novel's 328 pages the Sunderland-born writer/ artist explores author Lewis Carroll's links with the city and shows how it inspired his masterpieces. Talbot delves into Sunderland's history, from the Venerable Bede to George Formby, from its heyday as the greatest shipbuilding port in the world to its present multi-cultural mix.*

To win a copy, choose the correct answer to the following question:

Who wrote *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*:

a) Lewis Trondheim
b) Lewis Carroll
c) Lewis Hamilton

Name: ____________________
(Please print)

Address: ____________________
(Street & number)

____
(Town or city)

____
(County, Province or State, post code or zip code and country if outside UK)

The winners will be selected and announced in **Comics International** #205

Please also complete the following:

My five favourite features this issue (please mark in order of preference, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th; no ticks) were:

___ NEWS INTERNATIONAL
___ BOOK REPORT
___ NEWS ROUNDUP
___ MYSTIC ARCANA FEATURE
___ THE NAKED ARTIST PREVIEW
___ TRANSFORMERS FEATURE
___ TRANSFORMERS REVIEW
___ IRON MAN MOVIE FEATURE
___ METAL MEN
___ THE PRISONER FEATURE
___ NETWORKS
___ LYING IN THE GUTTER
___ TALKING SHOP
___ NOVEL GRAPHICS
___ FRAME TO FRAME
___ COMICS ECONOMICS
___ REVIEWS
___ ADVANCE LISTINGS
___ BIFF'S ILLUMINATIONS
___ COMING ATTRACTIONS
___ DIRECTORY
___ REALLY HEAVY GREATCOAT
___ COMIC CUTS
___ COMPETITIONS

PLUS... which of the above is your LEAST favourite, the one you skipped reading, the one you wish we'd replace with a new contender for the top spot:

____

*AND... how many people usually read your copy of **CI**?*
1: __ 2:__ 3:__ 4:__ 5:__ More: ____ (please specify)

Send this form (or photocopy) to:

ALICE IN SUNDERLAND COMPETITION (CI203)
PO BOX 9844, COLCHESTER, ESSEX CO1 9EE
Or email: ***competition@comics-international.co.uk***

All entries must be postmarked before August 31st, 2007

RON PERLMAN SELMA BLAIR
DOUG JONES JOHN HURT

HELLBOY
ANIMATED

BLOOD & IRON

AVAILABLE ON DVD
FROM 25/06/2007

ANCHOR BAY
STARZ company

FILM ROMAN
STARZ company

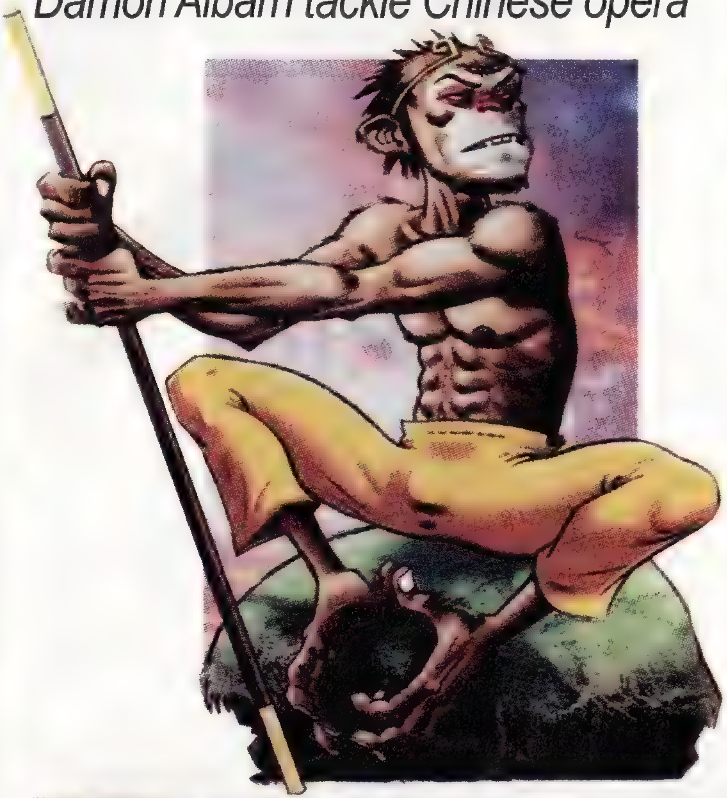
www.hellboyanimated.co.uk

REVOLUTION STUDIOS

Distributed By Anchor Bay Entertainment UK Limited. Package Design © 2006 Anchor Bay Entertainment UK Limited. All Program Content ©2006 Starz Media,LLC/Revolution Studios Distribution Company,LLC. All Rights Reserved

Hewlett's Monkey business

After Gorillaz Tank Girl artist and Blur's Damon Albarn tackle Chinese opera



THE MONKEY KING

WHILE Dark Horse released an English language edition of the famous **Monkey King** manga *[cover, left]* in 2005, it was BBC's UK broadcast of the Japanese TV series in the late 1970s that drew the Gorillaz duo of **Tank Girl** co-creator Jamie Hewlett and Blur front-man Damon Albarn to the story.

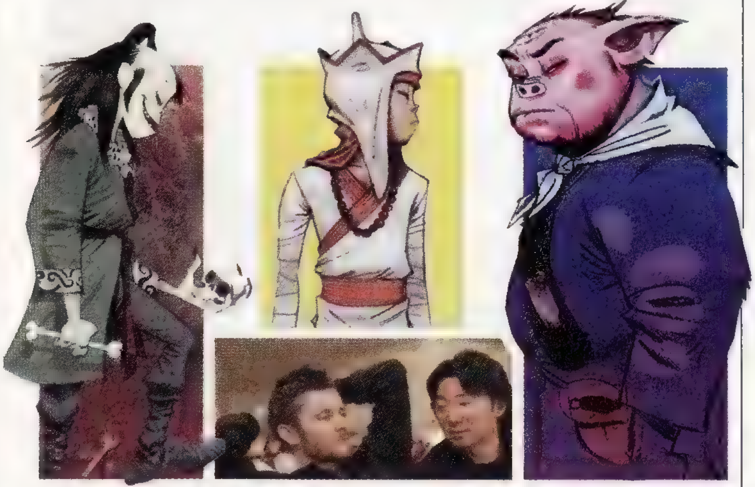
Opera director Chen Shi-Zheng was a fan of their Gorillaz work, "I loved the animation, the combination of the score and the visual images were integrated so well."

So when they were introduced to him, they leaped at the chance to work with him on **Monkey: Journey to the West** as a Mandarin Chinese "circus opera" that combined animation, martial arts and video game elements with song, dance and subtitles.

Because the director wanted it to also reflect 21st century China, once an agreement was reached he took the two to China, showing them small villages unchanged for a thousand years alongside modern expanding cities. As Hewlett sketched, Albarn sampled the sounds.

The end product of their labours – featuring Hewlett's visual concept, design and animation sequences and Albarn's music score – is a dazzling spectacle that re-invents the epic tale with more than 40 Chinese circus acrobats, vocalists and performing martial artists ("But it's a real opera," said Albarn).

Following a premiere as the launch event of the first Manchester International Festival (June 28 to July 15) the opera moved to Paris and then Berlin.

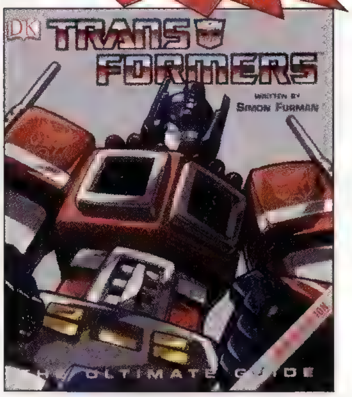


The artist and director surrounded by Hewlett's interpretations of Chinese folklore characters: Sandy (the river demon), Tripitaka (the monk) and Pigsy (the lech!).

WIN TWO GREAT TRANSFORMERS TITLES
10 sets to be won!

TRANS FORMERS
THE MOVIE GUIDE

Transformers © 2007 Hasbro. All Rights Reserved.



*DORLING Kindersley is offering **CI** readers the chance to win copies of two heavily illustrated, full colour **Transformers** titles*

*✶ A £12.99 hardcover, the 12x8¼" **The Movie Guide** provides 72 pages of detailed specifications for all the robots featured in the film and much more besides.*

*✶ Updated from 2004, the 152-page softcover edition of ace Transformers writer Simon Furman's 11¾x19¾" **The Ultimate Guide** is priced £9.99*

✶ Both volumes are in the shops now.

To win a copy, choose the correct answer to the following question:

Transformers are sometimes known as:

a) Robots in Disguise
b) Ladies of a Certain Size
c) A Gang of Hard-ridin' Guys

Name: ____________________
(Please print)

Address: ____________________
(Street & number)
____
(Town or city)
____
(County, Province or State, post code or zip code and country if outside UK)

The winners will be selected and announced in **Comics International #205**

Please also complete the following:

My five favourite features this issue (please mark in order of preference, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th; no ticks) were:

___ NEWS INTERNATIONAL
___ BOOK REPORT
___ NEWS ROUNDUP
___ MYSTIC ARCANA FEATURE
___ THE NAKED ARTIST PREVIEW
___ TRANSFORMERS FEATURE
___ TRANSFORMERS REVIEW
___ IRON MAN MOVIE FEATURE
___ METAL MEN
___ THE PRISONER FEATURE
___ NETWORKS
___ LYING IN THE GUTTER
___ TALKING SHOP
___ NOVEL GRAPHICS
___ FRAME TO FRAME
___ COMICS ECONOMICS
___ REVIEWS
___ ADVANCE LISTINGS
___ BIFF'S ILLUMINATIONS
___ COMING ATTRACTIONS
___ DIRECTORY
___ REALLY HEAVY GREATCOAT
___ COMIC CUTS
___ COMPETITIONS

PLUS... which of the above is your LEAST favourite, the one you skipped reading, the one you wish we'd replace with a new contender for the top spot:

____

AND... which age group do you fit into?

Under 18: __ 18-24:__ 25-34:__ 35-44:__ 45-54:__ 55-64: __ 65 or over: __

Send this form (or photocopy or e-mail) to:

TRANSFORMERS COMPETITION (CI203)
PO BOX 9844, COLCHESTER, ESSEX CO1 9EE
Or email: ***competition@comics-international.co.uk***

All entries must be postmarked before August 31st, 2007

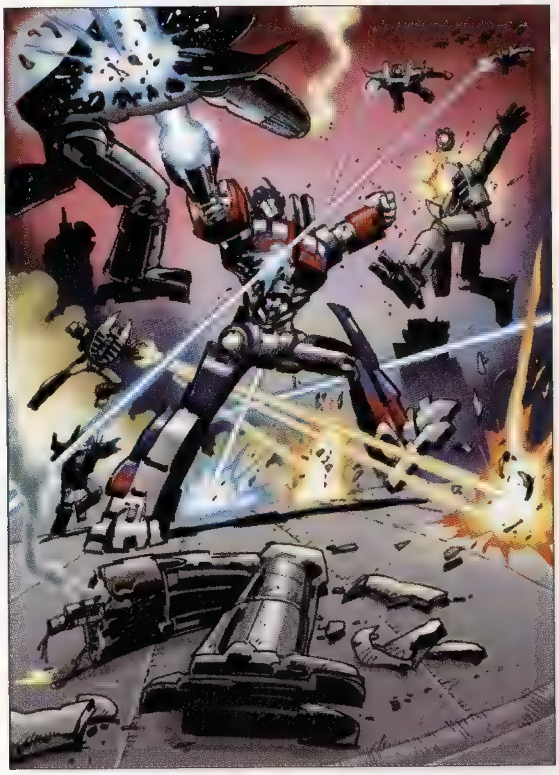
Robots in disguise relaunched from Titan

JULY saw the newsstand launch of a new **Transformers** comic.

Published every four weeks, the 52-page Titan Magazines title is to include a mix of material previously issued by IDW, plus strips originated exclusively for the UK series.

The new Titan title is bringing together a team of creators last seen in a **Transformers** comic 16 years ago. Unsurprisingly, Simon Furman, a British writer whose name is closely linked with Hasbro's Robots in Disguise, will be handling the scripting chores.

The initial issues will see an interesting and varied line-up of artists, #1 bringing the return of Geoff Senior to **Transformers** for the first time since 1991. His return has caused a stir of interest among long-term fans who recall him as a regular on the Marvel UK series. However, according to editor Steve White, it was just a chance conversation at a party that brought Senior out of his retirement. "It was serendipitous really. I was with some of the Marvel UK old guard and just happened to mention we were doing a new **Transformers** comic. Much to my surprise, Geoff jumped at the chance, although I think he regretted it once he saw how complicated the new robots are!"



Above: A page of Geoff Senior art from a newly commissioned story in Titan's £2.60 ***Transformers*** *#1. Top right: The cover to the 52-page issue, which hit shops on July 19.*

FIRST AWESOME ISSUE!
WIN TOYS! GAMES! T-SHIRTS!
TRANSFORMERS
ROBOTS IN DISGUISE
FANTASTIC FREE DOG TAGS!
THE INVASION BEGINS!

Movie prequel

White, an industry veteran who was colourist on Marvel UK's **Transformers** title for several years, says the new series will focus closely on the new movie. "The heart of the comic will be the IDW prequel material and the stories we're generating to dovetail into that. We're expecting the majority of readers to be younger, newer fans whose familiarity with **Transformers** extends no further than the movie."

However, White is hoping to strike a fine balance between old and new. "For 'legacy' fans, there's the thrill of seeing artists who've been out of the frame for years, even decades, back in action. As well as Furman and Senior, other names long-standing fans may be familiar with include Andrew Wildman (artist on the new comic's third issue) and Robin Smith. Still others are in the pipeline. But added to the equation are such stalwarts of the US **Transformers** titles as Nick Roche and Don Figueroa, both producing strips for the UK comic.

While **Transformers** is the latest addition to Titan's expanding line of comics, June saw the launch of **DreamWorks Tales**, a 100% originated newsstand title that launched under the aegis of the latest *Shrek* movie. Although essentially a children's comic, it lists among the various writers and artists involved Dan Abnett, Tom DeFalco, Andy Lanning and Gary Erskine.

Yet another title featuring original story material, **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles**, hit the streets in March.

Meanwhile Titan's variously formated reprints of Bongo's *The Simpsons* spin-off titles are also proving successful with one – **Simpsons Comics** – currently the UK's top selling comic.

Meanwhile, the expansion shows no sign of letting up. Titan is now DC's sole UK publisher. Having successfully taken over Panini's **Batman Legends** title, it has extended the line to include **Superman Legends** and **Justice League Legends** with an as yet undisclosed fourth title in the pipeline.

With so many ex-members either on staff or working on its titles, it would seem that Titan has inherited Marvel UK's crown as the lead producer of licensed comics in Britain.

Cape's comics competition

THE UK-based publisher of Bryan Talbot's **Alice in Sunderland** graphic novel is sponsoring an initiative to encourage British comics talent.

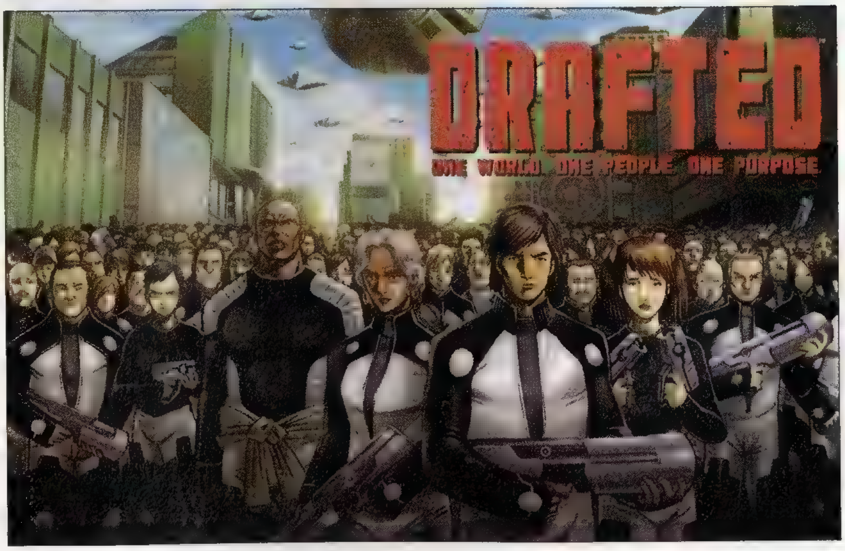
Organised in conjunction with **The Observer**, Jonathan Cape's Graphic Short Story Competition is open to all UK residents [see capegraphicnovels.co.uk for full details]. The winning strip is to be published in the October 14 edition of the newspaper; its creator will receive £1,000.

The scheme was conceived by Laura Hassan, the publisher's publicity director, who told **CI**, "At Cape we already publish many of the best known authors in the graphic field – Chris Ware, Joe Sacco, Marjane Satrapi, Posy Simmonds, Raymond Briggs and Dan Clowes. With this competition we are hoping to discover new authors who can combine words and pictures with the same brilliance."

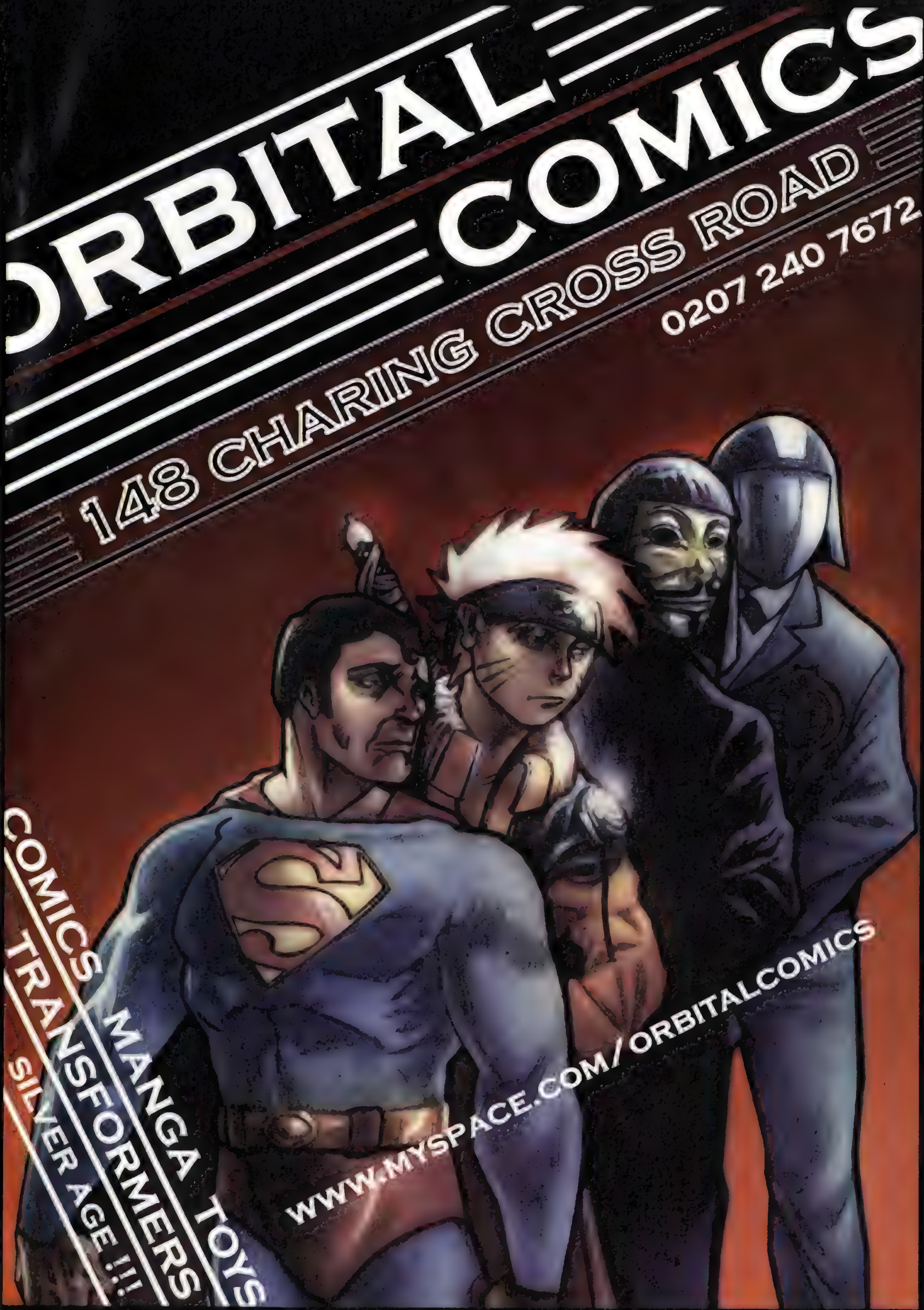
$10,000 to be won

An even bigger prize is on offer to the winner of Rok Comics' Hot Talent Competition, which is open to all. [Full details can be obtained from rokcomics.com/competition.php]

The Lancaster-based mobile phone content provider is offering $10,000 to whoever it judges to have submitted the best humour strip or cartoon produced using its Creator Tool.


DRAFTED
ONE WORLD. ONE PEOPLE. ONE PURPOSE

SHOWN above is Chris Lie's art for the wraparound cover to ***Drafted*** *#1. Written by former* ***Uncanny X-Men*** *editor Mark Powers, the $3.50 Devil's Due monthly continues the story begun in June's* ***Drafted 99¢ Preview*** *as the people of Earth are conscripted by an alien race to battle a more malevolent species of extraterrestrial invader. The series is illustrated by Lie. TokyoPop's* ***Return to Labyrinth*** *artist, he also drew* ***G.I. Joe: Sigma 6*** *for Devil's Due before winning a contest organised by the Chicago-based Devils's Due to get the* ***Drafted*** *assignment.*



ORBITAL COMICS

148 CHARING CROSS ROAD

0207 240 7672

COMICS MANGA TOYS

TRANSFORMERS

SILVER AGE !!!

WWW.MYSPACE.COM/ORBITALCOMICS

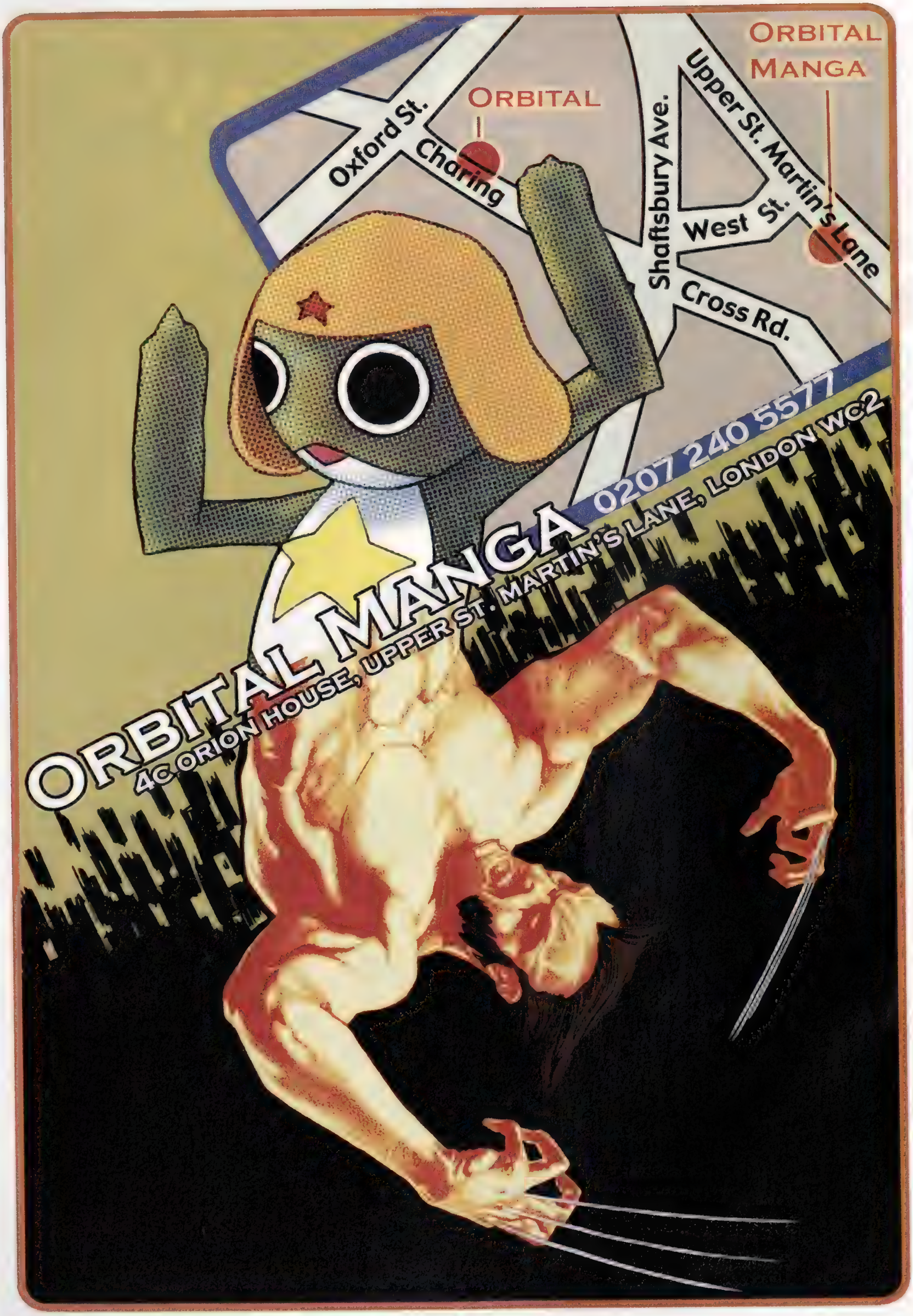
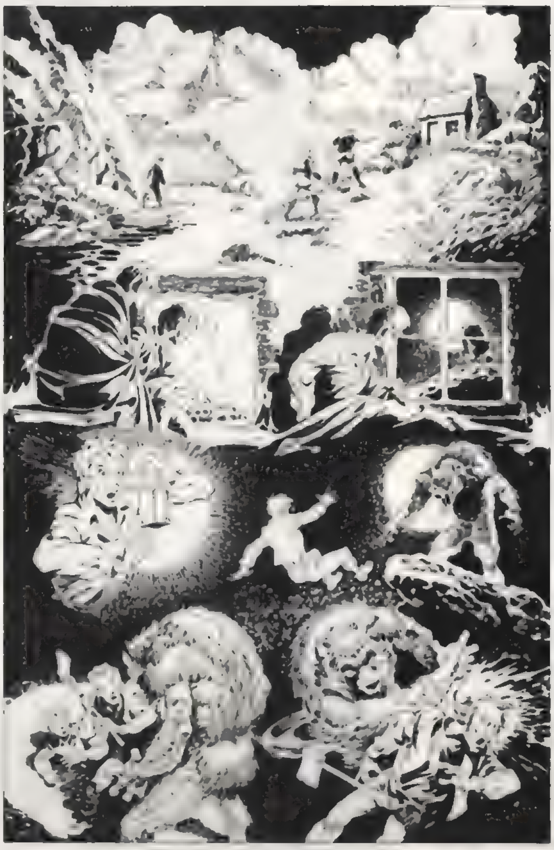

ORBITAL MANGA
Upper St. Martin's Lane
ORBITAL
Oxford St.
Charing
Shaftsbury Ave.
West St.
Cross Rd.
ORBITAL MANGA
0207 240 5577
4C ORION HOUSE, UPPER ST. MARTIN'S LANE, LONDON WC2

illustration: Songe Riddle www.songeriddle.com

Werewolf by Night artist intros own lycanthropes



BETTER known these days for his collaborations with writer J.M. DeMatteis on **Abadazad** and **The Stardust Kid**, Mike Ploog made his name not on such fantasy titles but drawing horror comics for Marvel in the 1970s.

He is now returning to that genre on a project that almost brings his career full circle. After illustrating a handful of stories for Warren's horror magazines (**Creepy**, **Eerie** and **Vampirella**), the artist was hired to work on **Marvel Spotlight**, beginning with 1972's #2. That issue introduced *Werewolf by Night* and he is now back once more working with the bloodthirsty lycanthropes.

Human spirit

Launching from Reed Comics later this year, **Thicker than Blood** is written by Simon Reed, who set up the Bedfordshire-based publisher.

He told **CI** the comic is the story of two brothers who – on a trek across Scotland – find themselves faced with more than just a stroll through the Highlands. "After travelling for miles lost in the mist they chance upon shelter not knowing what lies before them. The darkness descended and the moon rose, an invitation for all manner of creatures.

"This," he explained, "is a tragic tale of two brothers being in the wrong place at the wrong time and how their lives were changed forever. The human spirit is thicker than blood and this is their tale."

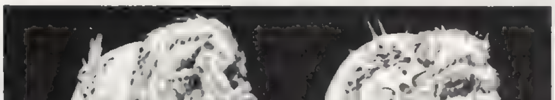
Joining Reed and Ploog on the $3.99/£2.60 three-parter is Simon Bisley, who has a sequel to his 2005 Reed mini, **Full Cirkle** in the pipeline.

The **Batman/Judge Dredd: Judgement on Gotham** artist is to provide painted colour on the series because, as the writer explained – "he was such a fan of Mike's when he was just a boy and considers it an honour to colour his work."

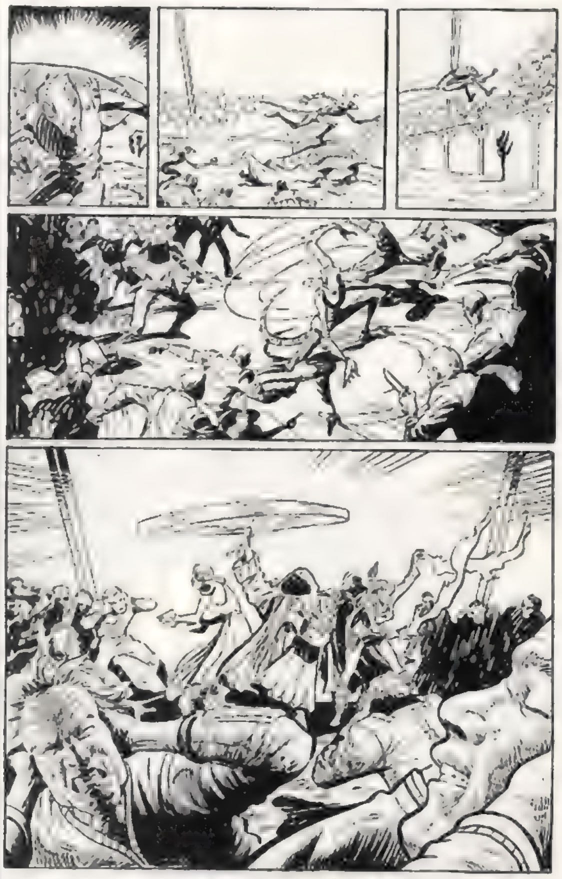
Stain rubbing

Getting back to the story, Reed revealed, "It really came from a combination of a love for the classic original horror movies, *Wolf-Man*, *Frankenstein* and *Dracula* plus an idea which I couldn't put down. I had a specific scene in my mind for an ending and a relationship between two brothers that was unique.

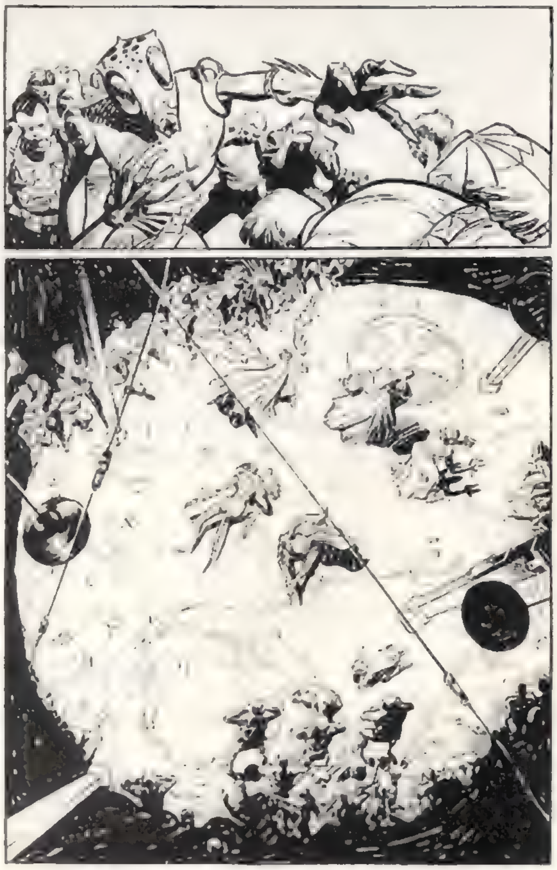
"I believe this story has never been told before," he added, "and yet it combines all the classic elements of stories from a bygone era with a twist. It really grew from there and I can't say too much as it will spoil the surprise. What I can say is in life sometimes the more we try to put things right the worse they get. It's like rubbing a stain and it just gets worse."



*Pictured: Story pages from the first $3.99/£2.60 issue of Reed Comics' **Thicker than Blood**. Illustrated by Mike Ploog, the three-parter is scheduled to premiere later this year.*



*PICTURED are two story pages from **Seven against Chaos**, a four-issue prestige format series Paul Chadwick has been working on with legendary SF author Harlan Ellison for more than three years. Outlining the basic concept for the DC project, the **Concrete** creator said, "Harlan is basing it on a film treatment he wrote years ago, that takes* The Seven Samurai *plot and re-imagines it in a science fictional context. But frankly, I think Harlan is more influenced by the western,* The Magnificent Seven.*" Chadwick, who contributed to the sole issue of **Harlan Ellison's Dream Corridor Quarterly** – a 1996 Dark Horse anthology – said the series is a standalone book, neither a DC Universe comic nor Vertigo title. **Seven against Chaos** is unscheduled.*



Planet Ace Ltd Presents...

A Comic Service Like No Other

providing the best Pre-Order Comic Service in Europe, for the last 26 years.

HOW?

To find out more about our Pre-Order Services contact us by one of the means below and treat yourself to stress free comic ordering.

Go on you deserve it!

For our FREE Pre-Order Starter Pack either...

- Fill in the coupon below
- Call us on +44 (0)1206 364140
- Email us at info@acecomics.co.uk
- Or visit our web-site at www.acecomics.co.uk

The Store

New Comics.

Thousands of Back Issues.

Monthly Comic Subscriptions.

Hundreds of Toys & Action Figures.

T-Shirts & Clothing

Statues

Posters

Roleplay Books & CCGS.

Original Comic Artwork.

and lots, lots more, both in store and on-line.

So call us on:
+44 (0)1206 561912
and if we haven't got it i'm sure we can get it, or visit our web-site

www.acecomics.co.uk

ACE PRE-ORDER STARTER PACK

please send a Pre-order starter pack to me so I can find out more about ACE:

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

ACE thanks you for your interest and looks forward to your response.

Return Address: Planet Ace Ltd 63-64 High Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1DN

Book Report

KIRBY
KIRBY

Long-awaited King of Comics biography scheduled

JACK Kirby's longtime assistant, Mark Evanier is to chronicle the life of the man they call the King of Comics in a 224-page hardcover.

To be published by Abrams Books on October 1, the aptly titled **Jack Kirby: King of Comics** *[cover above]* has been in the pipeline for several years. It is, says Evanier, "filled with illustrations from Jack's life, ranging from things he did as a kid (signed with his real name, Kurtzberg) to work as an adult. Many of the items have been seen before, though never with this quality of printing. Many have never been published. I have, for instance, a couple of unused Marvel covers from the '60s, one still in pencil, and a number of pencil commissions he did for people late in life.

"We're printing Jack's autobiographical story, *Street Code*, right off the original negatives. We're printing a **Fighting American** story right off the original art. We have some of Jack's famous collages and a couple of pages where he took the art to some comic he'd done and hand-coloured the original art. There are some amazing pieces," added the writer, who revealed the $40 **King of Comics** is the first of two books devoted to Kirby that he is working on. "The second, which has no firm publication date or plans at present, is an exhaustive, long, trivia-laden, full-of-hitherto-undisclosed info biography. I'm still working intermittently on that one. Don't ask me when it'll be done. I don't know.

"This year's book, which I hope will tide Kirby fans over for now, is an art book with a much briefer biography. The text in this one is around 40,000 words as opposed to the other book, which should easily top 250,000, thereby making Vince Bugliosi's JFK volume look like a pamphlet," he concluded.

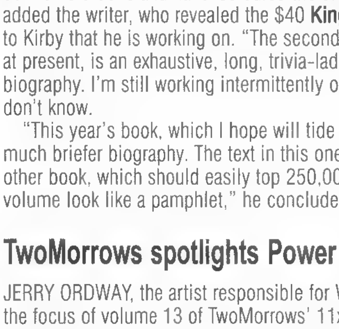
TwoMorrows spotlights Power of Shazam! creator

JERRY ORDWAY, the artist responsible for WildStorm's recent **Red Menace** six-parter is the focus of volume 13 of TwoMorrows' 11x8½" **Modern Masters** series.

The heavily illustrated 120-pager – which includes an 8-page colour section – spans Ordway's entire career from his first professional assignment inking a story in 1981's **Mystery in Space** #117 through his work as a penciller on such titles as **All Star Squadron**, **Infinity Inc** and **Superman**, which he also wrote. It also covers **The Power of Shazam!** – both the graphic novel, which he wrote and drew, and the series that followed, which he scripted.

Modern Masters volume 13: **Jerry Ordway** ships on August 22, priced $14.95.

Prion gives Junior TV Times a look in

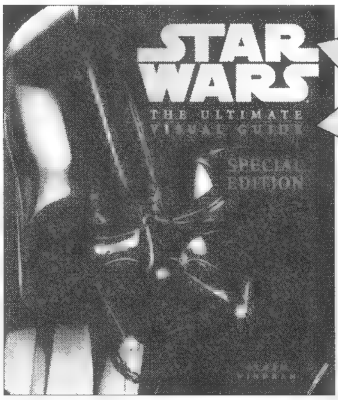


THE AUTHOR of **The Ultimate Book of British Comics** is sharpening his focus with a book dedicated to one of Britain's more esoteric comics titles.

To be published by Prion Books on September 7, Graham Kibble-White's 144-page **Look-in** *[cover left]* is devoted to the magazine also known as **The Junior TV Times** although it carried little by way of TV listings.

Priced £12.99, the hardcover – which is subtitled **The Best of the Seventies** – looks back at the magazine which mixed TV and pop-related features, star interviews and pin-ups with comics. It also spotlights the spin-off strips based on *Black Beauty*, *The Six Million Dollar Man*, *Sapphire and Steel*, *Space 1999* and other TV action/adventure series broadcast on the independent television network as well as *Robin's Nest*, *On The Buses*, *Please Sir!* and other such sit-coms.

● Launched in 1971 by Independent Television, **Look-in** ran weekly until 1994. Across



CELEBRATE 30 YEARS OF STAR WARS!
10
£14.99 illustrated hardcover guides to be won

AS PART of the Star Wars 30th Anniversary celebrations, Dorling Kindersley is publishing ***Star Wars: The Ultimate Visual Guide – Special Edition*** *and giving* ***CI*** *readers 10 chances to win a copy of this heavily illustrated £14.99 hardcover.*

Written by Daniel Wallace and Ryder Wyndham, the 11¾x10" 164-pager is a visual record of an era of momentous change, one that stretches from thousands of years before Episode I to three decades after Episode VI. Packed with rare behind-the-scenes photos and pre-production drawings, it not only encompasses all six films but also the comics, TV specials and novels plus merchandise – from toys and video games to poster art and more.

Star Wars: The Ultimate Visual Guide – Special Edition *is available now.*

To win a copy, choose the correct answer to the following question:

Which company first published Star Wars comics:

a) Dark Horse
b) Charlton
c) Marvel

Name: ____________________
(Please print)

Address: ____________________
(Street & number)

____
(Town or city)

____
(County, Province or State, post code or zip code and country if outside UK)

The winners will be selected and announced in **Comics International** #205

Please also complete the following:

My five favourite features this issue (please mark in order of preference, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th; no ticks) were:

___ NEWS INTERNATIONAL
___ BOOK REPORT
___ NEWS ROUNDUP
___ MYSTIC ARCANA FEATURE
___ THE NAKED ARTIST PREVIEW
___ TRANSFORMERS FEATURE
___ TRANSFORMERS REVIEW
___ IRON MAN MOVIE FEATURE
___ METAL MEN
___ THE PRISONER FEATURE
___ NETWORKS
___ LYING IN THE GUTTER
___ TALKING SHOP
___ NOVEL GRAPHICS
___ FRAME TO FRAME
___ COMICS ECONOMICS
___ REVIEWS
___ ADVANCE LISTINGS
___ BIFF'S ILLUMINATIONS
___ COMING ATTRACTIONS
___ DIRECTORY
___ REALLY HEAVY GREATCOAT
___ COMIC CUTS
___ COMPETITIONS

PLUS... tell us which of the above is your LEAST favourite, the one you skipped reading, the one you wish we'd replace with a new contender for the top spot:

____

AND... how often do you buy a copy of CI?

Regularly: __ Occasionally:__ Rarely: __ This is my first:__

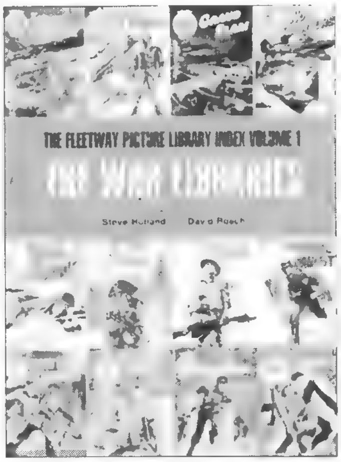
Send this form (or photocopy) to:

STAR WARS COMPETITION (CI203)
PO BOX 9844, COLCHESTER, ESSEX CO1 9EE
Or email: ***competition@comics-international.co.uk***

All entries must be postmarked before August 31st, 2007

the years, it featured strips drawn by such notables as Martin Asbury, John Bolton, John Burns, Brian Lewis, Mike Noble and Arthur Ranson.

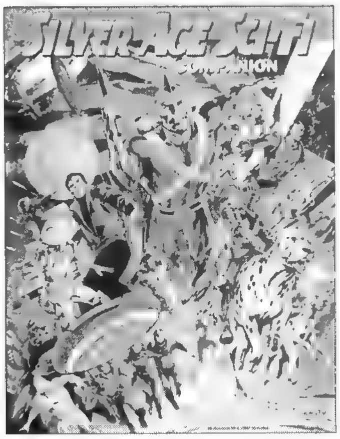
Fleetway's Picture Library indexed



DOCTOR Who artist David Roach and one-time **Comic World** editor Steve Holland are collaborating on the 7½x10" **Fleetway Picture Library Index**, a definitive guide to the writers and artists who worked on the long-running black and white digest-sized comics series.

Planned as a three-volume set, this is the second title from London-Based Book Palace Books following 2005's **Modesty Blaise Companion**. It kicks off with a 196-pager encompassing **War Picture Library**, **Battle Picture Library**, **Air Ace Picture Library** and **War at Sea Picture Library** as well as **Giant War Picture Library** and the **Holiday Specials**. Priced £29.95, **The War Libraries: The Fleetway Picture Library Index** volume 1 *[cover above]* includes a 32-page colour section. Packaged within a flexi cover, the exhaustively researched volume is published in August.

Outsiders creator showcases classic DC SF



MIKE W Barr is writing a history and appreciation of DC's classic science fiction comics of the 1950s and '60s for, aptly enough, TwoMorrows.

Heavily illustrated, the black and white **Silver Age Sci-Fi Companion** focuses on **Mystery in Space** and **Strange Adventures**, which featured stories written by John Broome and Gardner Fox and drawn by Murphy Anderson, Carmine Infantino, Gil Kane and Mike Sekowsky among others. It spotlights such series as *Adam Strange*, *Atomic Knights*, *Space Museum*, *Star Rovers* and *Star Hawkins* while providing complete writer and artist credits for every story to appear in the titles, which launched in 1951 and 1950, respectively.

Priced $19.95, the 8½x11" 160-pager ships on September 19. Shown above is the cover to the volume; art by Alan Davis and Paul Neary.

● The creator of **Batman and the Outsiders**, **The Maze Agency** and, with artist Brian Bolland, **Camelot 3000**, Mike W Barr has been writing comics for over 30 years. His early credits included a stint contributing to **Mystery in Space**.

Spider-Man swings into Titan Books

FORMER **Marvel Age** editor Steve Saffel is writing a 320-page history of Marvel's wall-crawling flagship hero for London-based Titan Books.

Subtitled **The Life and Times of a Pop Culture Phenomenon**, the £29.99 **Spider-Man: The Icon** *[cover right]* covers every aspect of the web-slinging character's career from comics and cartoons to action figures and movies via myriad varieties of licenced merchandise.

Much more than just a chronological account of Spider-Man's adventures, it takes into account his place in American culture. Profusely illustrated with rare and unseen artwork, it includes interviews with comics writers and artists who have played a key role in his development.

The 8¾x12" hardcover is published by Titan on October 16.

Superheroes go to the movies

JOHN L Flyn's 232-page **101 Superheroes of the Silver Screen** is described by its publisher as a celebration of "all the superheroes who have made the transition from page to screen (through 2008)."

An A-Z listing, the 6x9" hardcover offers details of each character's first comicbook appearance and his or her origin together with a list of media appearances, a plot synopsis, commentary on the movie and trivia. It is priced $13.95.

British comics magazine gets annual resurrection

LONDONER Joel Meadows is reviving as a yearly softcover book the long-running comics magazine he cancelled in 2003.

Shipping in July, the 128-page **TripWire 2007 Annual** features interviews with Alan Moore, Frank Miller, Mike Mignola, Mike Carey, Guillermo del Toro, Duncan Fegredo, Jeph Loeb and John Wagner among others. It is priced $14.95.

Roy Thomas packs museum in a book

FORMER Marvel editor-in-chief Roy Thomas has teamed up with **Marvel Universe** author Peter Sanderson to produce an unusual collection of facsimile Marvel artifacts.

Subtitled **A Museum in a Book with Rare Collectables from the World of Marvel**, **The Marvel Vault** *[cover below]* is the latest in a line of similar titles from Running Press. A 13x10½" spiral-bound folder, the 192-page hardcover – which features a chronological history of Marvel – includes 10 perspex sleeves, each of which contains a selection of reproduction collectables.

Among the items featured are 1941-42 sketches, Stan Lee's **Fantastic Four** synopsis, the 1965 Merry Marvel Marching Society Welcome Kit, a Howard the Duck Campaign Button and a Marvel Share Certificate.

Thomas told **CI** he was originally commissioned to write the book solus but brought Sanderson in to save him having to research the era after he left Marvel in 1981. "He picked up at that point and then we went over each other's sections and polished it a little. So we sort of divided the work, with me doing up to the mid-70s and him taking it on from there."

The artifacts were, Thomas explained, selected by in-house by Running Press although many were based on his suggestions. "The only thing I couldn't talk them into doing – and I'm sorry the publisher didn't want to go to the extra expense or whatever – but, when we did the MMMS kit I really thought they should have done the record. I pushed for it and pushed for it but I couldn't quite get 'em to go for it and I think it's a sorry lack. Otherwise I think it's a good book."

Priced $49.95, **The Marvel Vault** is published on September 6 in the UK and on October 8 in the US.

THE
MARVEL
VAULT
A MUSEUM-IN-A-BOOK WITH RARE COLLECTIBLES FROM THE WORLD OF MARVEL

Comics criticism and theory: one man's notion

READING COMICS
DOUGLAS WOLK

WITH the general public's interest in graphic novels at an all-time high, **Publishers' Weekly** contributing editor Douglas Wolk has embarked on an ambitious endeavour – to write an informative and accessible guide to comics theory and criticism.

Published by Da Capo Press and available now, the 416-page **Reading Comics** *[cover right]* is subtitled **How Graphic Novels Work and What They Mean**. Divided into two sections – *Theory and History* and *Reviews and Commentary* – the 9x6" hardcover is illustrated in black and white. It spotlights work by a wide range of creators; among them Alan Moore, Alison Bechdel, Steve Ditko, Will Eisner, Gilbert and Jaime Hernandez, Frank Miller, Grant Morrison, Dave Sim, Jim Starlin and Chris Ware.

Sidelining rather than ignoring the superhero comics that dominate the medium in America, Wolk sets out to make the $22.95 **Reading Comics** of interest to both the neophyte and the committed fan

NEWS ROUND UP

Mars to live on in comics?

VERONICA Mars creator Rob Thomas is hoping to continue the adventures of his teenaged private eye in a comicbook as well as on the big screen.

Discussing the future of the character, whose CW TV series ended on May 22 after three seasons, he said, "I have some ambition to write a screenplay, see if I can shop that and get it made. And I had a meeting with DC Comics last Monday and they want to do Season 4 as a comic series."

EC fanzine finally reaches 12

IT HAS taken 40 years but **Squa Tront** is finally set to get a dozen issues under its belt.

A black and white 64-pager, the square-bound #12 features previously unpublished interviews with Harvey Kurtzman and Jack Kamen. The 8½x11" magazine also includes publisher Lyle Stuart talking about his days as EC's business manager, writer Larry Siegel reminiscing about Kurtzman, **MAD** and **Humbug** and a feature on EC's rarest publication, **The Profit** as well as never-before-seen art by Jack Davis, Kurtzman, Jack Kamen and Wally Wood. Shown above is the cover to the $9.95 issue; art by Davis.

Launched by Jerry Weist in 1967, the highly respected EC fanzine has been edited by John Benson since 1974's #5. Like the now-defunct **Spa Fon**, another 'zine devoted to the output of the highly respected and ground-breaking comics publisher, its title derives from the sort of dialogue "spoken" by EC aliens.

Squa Tront has a sporadic publishing history with 2005's #11 following 10 years after #10, which came 12 years after 1983's #9. It is now released under the auspices of Fantagraphics.

Robot Pets join Ed's Terrestrials

HAVING taken his first tentative steps into publishing,Scott Christian Sava is about to add a third title to the fledgling Blue Dream Studios line he inaugurated last November.

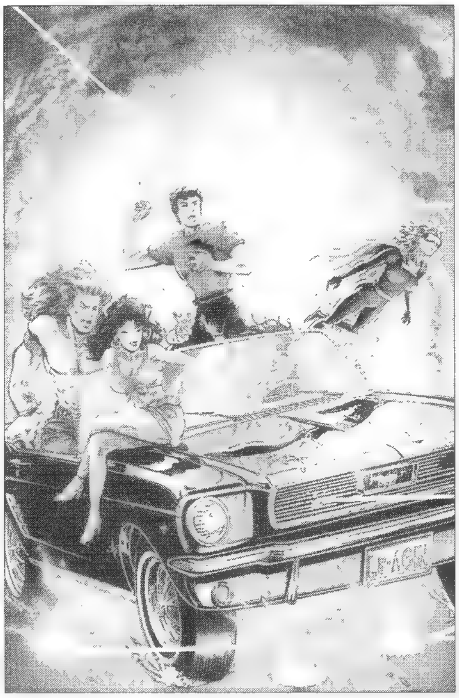
Set to join the animator's own **Dreamland Chronicles** - a repackaging of the **Spider-Man: Quality of Life** artist's hugely popular on-line strip – and **Ed's Terrestrials** is **Pet Robots** *[see cover, above]*. Written by Sava and drawn by his **Ed's Terrestrials** collaborator Diego Jourdan, the 10½x6¾" hardcover is an all-ages story of four students who become the custodians of a quartet of military-looking toy robots. Unfortunately, the robots' real owner will stop at nothing to get them back.

Priced $17.95, **Pet Robots** ships in August.

Shooter kick starts Valiant comeback

A NEW story set in the original Valiant Universe is to be the highlight of the first title from the new owners of the properties created by former Marvel editor-in-chief Jim Shooter in 1990.

Subtitled **The Beginning**, the 192-page **Harbinger** *[see cover, above; art by David Lapham]* reprints the first seven issues of the 1992 series written by Shooter and drawn by Lapham, who went on to garner much acclaim for his self-published crime comic, **Stray Bullets**.

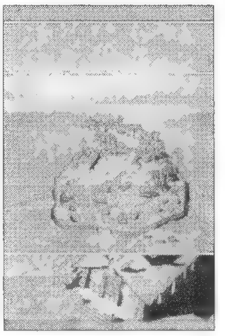


Shipping in August, the $24.95 Valiant Entertainment hardcover also includes *The Origin of Harada*. A new story by Shooter and artist Bob (**Shadowman**) Hall, it introduces a new character into the Valiant Universe while revealing the history of the Japanese tycoon who is the teen team's most implacable foe.

Acclaim Entertainment acquired the Valiant library in 1994 and set about revamping the characters to be more suitable for video game development. That move, coupled with a massive downturn in comicbook sales, led to the renamed Acclaim Comics line's demise in 2000. Four years later Acclaim filed for bankruptcy.

As part of its bankruptcy proceedings, in 2005 Acclaim's rights to such original (i.e. non-Gold Key) Valiant properties as Archer and Armstrong, Bloodshot, Eternal Warrior, H.A.R.D. Corps, Ninjak, Shadowman, X-O Manowar and, of course, Harbinger were put up for auction. The Valiant library of characters was eventually acquired by Valiant Entertainment, which has expressed an interest in returning the characters to their pre-Acclaim state.

Anglo-Saxon epic part 1 of 3



IDW IS to publish its first weekly comic.

A four-issue adaptation of the forthcoming movie directed by Robert Zemeckis, **Beowulf** is set for release in October. It is produced by the team responsible for IDW's adaptation of Clive Barker's **The Great and Secret Show** – IDW editor-in-chief Chris Ryall, artist Gabriel Rodriguez and colourist Jay Fotos.

Premiering in the US on November 16 and in the UK a fortnight later, the *Beowulf* movie utilises the same motion capture techniques Zemeckis used on *The Polar Express*. Its stars include Angelina Jolie, Anthony Hopkins, Ray Winstone, Crispin Glover and John Malkovich.

The screenplay, an adaptation of the ancient Anglo-Saxon epic poem, is by **The Sandman**'s Neil Gaiman and Roger (*Silent Hill*) Avary.

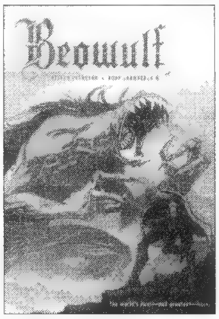
Anglo-Saxon epic part 2 of 3

MARKOSIA is also offering a version of **Beowulf** in October but the British publisher is favouring of the source material over the Robert Zemeckis-directed movie.

A 64-pager, the black and white **Beowulf: The Graphic Novel** *[see cover, right]* is written by **Zen, the Intergalactic Ninja** co-creator and drawn by Christopher Steininger, a Canadian artist who drew **The White Elephant**, a 2004 graphic novel from Alternative Comics. He is also illustrating Ape Entertainment's 80-page **Kill the Revisionist!**, which is currently scheduled for publication next January.

"My interpretation is based on the landmark 1999 translation of the poem by Nobel Prize-winner Seamus Heaney," revealed Stern. "To me, this is the definitive version of the story. But as in any retelling of and old myth, the key is to be rewarded with the discovery that its meaning is still very much alive for the reader. This is what I've attempted to do."

Anglo-Saxon epic part 3 of 3



ROUNDING out a trio of comics titles hitting stories in time to benefit from the opening for Robert Zemeckis's *Beowulf* movie is a HarperTrophy 92-pager.

Aimed at the 9-12 age group, the $8.99 **Beowulf** *[see cover, left]* is another adaptation of the epic Early Middle Ages poem. A 6x9" softcover, it is by **The X-Files**' Stefan Petrucha and Kody Chamberlain, an artist whose credits include **30 Days of Night: Bloodsucker Tales** for IDW and Boom! Studios! **Tag**.

"Remaining true to its exciting source material, the story follows everyone's favourite Geat, Beowulf, as he battles the bestial descendant of Cain, Grendel, the monster's even more massive mother, and finally, in his golden years, the very dragon that inspired the work of JRR Tolkien" stated Petrucba.

Vertigo lands top-selling novelists

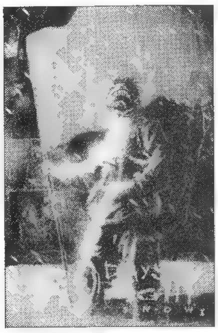
NO STRANGERS to fiction, Peter Straub and Jay Cantor are both to make their comicbook debut with as-yet unscheduled Vertigo graphic novels.

Straub – who collaborated with Stephen King on **The Talisman** and **Black House** – is teaming up with screenwriter/poet/actor Michael Easton for **The Green Woman**. Described as a tale of "horror and unrelenting suspense that takes readers deep into the minds of both a serial killer and the police detective whose mission is to bring this monster to justice.",

As with **The Green Room**, no artist has been assigned to **Aaron and Ahmed**. Cantor's inaugural foray into comicbook storytelling. Its focus is a man who – after losing his wife when her plane collides with a tower of the World Trade Centre – vows to devote his life to stopping the jihadists. On his quest, he discovers 'memes' – self-propagating ideas commonly used in brainwashing – and experiments with turning them against the terrorists. This discovery brings his own free will into question: in a world where the implanting of ideas is used to program the masses, can he remain in control of himself?

Aaron and Ahmed is not the first time Cantor's name has been associated with comics. He is the author of **Krazy Kat**, the 1987 novel that re-envisioned George Herriman's revered comic strip characters, placing them against the backdrop of the atomic age.

30 Days of Russian vampires



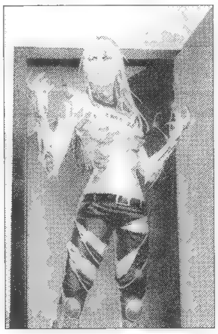
IDW IS scheduling its next **30 Days of Night** spin-off to tie-in with the October premiere of the movie based on the Steve Niles vampire franchise.

A prequel to the original 2002 three-parter, the $3.99 **30 Days of Night: Red Snow** *[see cover, left; art by Ben Templesmith]* is set in the Russian Arctic at the height of World War II. It follows a British military attache who is attempting to get aid to Stalin's hard-pressed frontline troops, but soon finds there is an enemy even worse than the Nazis.

Premiering in August, this latest three-issue series is written and drawn by Templesmith, who illustrated the initial mini.

The *30 Days of Night* movie opens in the US on October 19 and in the UK a fortnight later. Directed by *Hard Candy*'s David Slade, it stars Josh (*Sin City*) Hartnett and *X-Men: The Last Stand*'s Ben Foster.

Newcomer draws Witchblade



SAMI Basri is to draw issues #108 and 109 of Top Cow's $2.99 flagship title, **Witchblade**.

A relative newcomer, the Indonesian artist's comics work to date has mainly been as a colourist although he is well-known as an illustrator for the gaming and trading card industries. Shown left is an interior page by Basri from **Witchblade** #108.

Written by Ron Marz, the issues, which were solicited as being illustrated by series regular Adriana Melo, were due to ship from Image in May and June respectively.

Deadpool co-creator stands by for Action

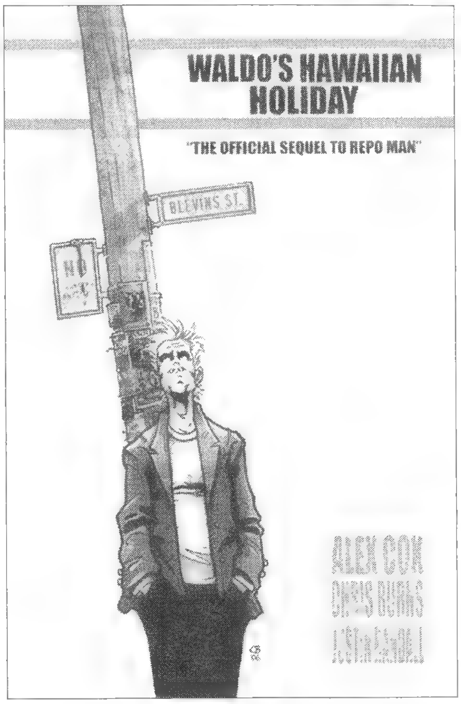
FABIAN Nicieza is to write Moonstone Books' upcoming comicbook resurrection of a 1960s action figure whose career in comics was previously limited to the five issues of his own 1968 DC title.

Although no artist has yet been assigned to the project, Captain Action is set to make his return in two six-page teaser tales running in the back of such existing Moonstone titles as **The Phantom** and **Kolchak, The Night Stalker**. A **Captain Action** series will then follow.

Currently writing **Cable & Deadpool** for Marvel, Nicieza is the co-creator of Deadpool, Shatterstar and X-Force. His numerous credits include **New Warriors**, **Thunderbolts** and **X-Men** as well as **Turok** for Acclaim where he was editor-in-chief and DC's **Supermen of America** and **JLA: Created Equal**.

Repo Man sequel hails from Oz

GESTALT Publishing is developing a graphic novel sequel to a cult classic 1984 movie directed Alex Cox.



A follow up to *Repo Man*, **Waldo's Hawaiian Holiday** *[cover above, art by Chris Burns]* was originally to be published as by Image as a three-parter in 2006. It is currently lined up for release by the Australian publisher before Christmas.

Illustrated by Burns, a relative newcomer who drew **The Eldritch Kid** for Phosphorescent Comics, it is based on Cox's screenplay of the same name. The British director planned to shoot the movie in the mid-1990s with *Repo Man*'s stars Emilio Estevez and Harry Dean Stanton reprising their roles in what was described as a gritty sequel, but the financing fell through.

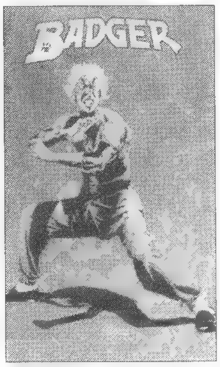
Indian horror surfaces as graphic novels

VIRGIN Comics and Studio 18 – an offshoot of the Indian media powerhouse Network 18 - have announced plans to create a slate of teen horror properties for films, television, games and publishing.

The new horror properties will target India's burgeoning teen market. They will first appear as graphic novels, which will be published worldwide by Virgin Comics. India s top screenwriters and directors will be engaged to create the new properties under the supervision of Virgin president Suresh Seetharaman and Deepti Chawla Studio 18's creative director.

The plans are to create an annual slate of horror properties with the first graphic novel due for publication late this year.

Baron brings Badger back



IDW IS to be home to the resurrection of yet another First Comics character.

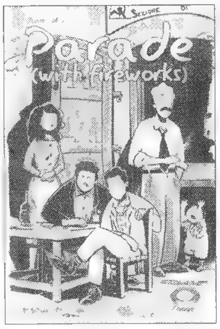
Following on from its revival of Mike Grell's **Jon Sable, Freelance** and **Grimjack** by John Ostrander and Tim Truman, the San Diego-based publisher is set to bring back writer Mike Baron's **Badger**. The mentally unstable hero's return is to be on two fronts – in a series of reprint trade paperbacks and in a line of new comics.

The first reprint volume consists of the first six issues of the original (1983) series, which features art by Jeff Butler. Priced $24.99, the 176-pager ships in November as does the all-new **Badger: Bull**. A one-shot intended as a primer for new readers, it is drawn by Canadian artist Neil Hansen, who worked on later issues of First's **Badger**. His First credits also include **Nexus** and **Whisper**.

Following in December comes the first issue of **Badger: Ceremony**. Also drawn by Hansen, the five-parter is, says Baron, "about everything – world politics, theology, modern psychiatry, druidism, martial arts, dead actors, couples relations, taxonomy, acting, the essence of friendship and the nature of art."

● Launched by Capital Comics in 1983, **Badger** moved to First with #5. Axed in 1991 after 70 issues and several miniseries, the title briefly resurfaced at Dark Horse three years later.

ShadowLine launches historical saga

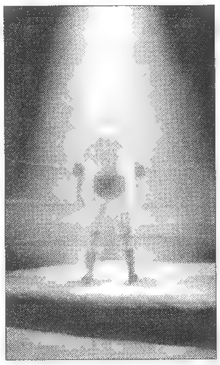


CONTINUING to expand his Image imprint's roster of titles beyond standard superhero fare, ShadowLine's Jim Valentino is adding an historical saga to the line.

Parade (with Fireworks) is set to launch on September 12. A $3.50 two-parter by Michael Cavallaro, it focuses on the personal side of an Italy torn apart after the first World War.

"I grew up hearing my parents' and grandparents' stories about their lives in pre and post WW2 Italy and finally decided to start writing them down. I'm taking one of these as the subject of **Parade (with Fireworks)**. Ultimately, it'll be part of a larger work titled **Seven Years Without The Sun**," revealed Cavallaro, who writes and draws **66 Thousand Miles per Hour** for True Believer Press. "The basis of the comic spans decades of my family's history on their journeys from an Italian countryside lost between two World Wars, to the coalmines of the American south and the factories of the northeast. **Parade** is the beginning of these stories.""

Markosia gets Headlocked



MORE than a year after it was first announced a series set in the world of professional wrestling is finally on its way to the shops.

Now allied with Markosia, Visionary Comics Studio is set to premiere **Headlocked** in October with a one-shot subtitled **The Work of Art**. Pencilled by Filipino artist Randy Valente (a relative newcomer), the 48-pager is priced $3.99. The ongoing series follows early in 2008.

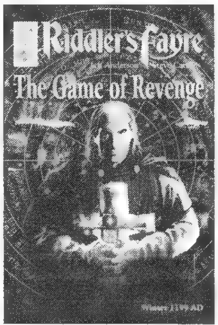
The title focuses on Mike Hartmann, a skinny theatre major and his unlikely journey to become a pro wrestler. "Basically he gets dragged to a WWE-style wrestling match and he gets caught up in the show," explains **Headlocked** creator/writer Michael Kingston. "A lot of wrestlers start out as fans. At some point they've all had that moment where they see something amazing in the ring and in their head they say, 'I want to do this.' Well that happens to Hartmann in a big way.

"I purposely based the story around a character with very limited knowledge of the wrestling business so that the story is accessible to anyone," stated Kingston, who is making his comics debut. "The only thing Hartmann knows about wrestling is what he's seen on TV and some research he's done on the Internet. He thinks that because he knows a few insider trade secrets that he's ready which leads to him getting in over his head very quickly.

"The series deals a lot with the concept of identity," added the writer. "One of the underlying themes of **Headlocked** is how people define themselves and why they choose to define themselves in certain ways. Hartmann has spent his whole life being a certain type of person and now after one night he's decided to scrap all that and become something completely different."

Revealing that one of his main motivations for writing **Headlocked** was to challenge a lot of popular misconceptions about professional wrestling itself, Kingston said, "I've been a fan of wrestling and its history for almost 20 years and there is so much more to it than just two guys pretending to hit each other. For the most part, the general public has no idea how much talent and skill it takes to become a good professional wrestler. I'm hoping that people who follow the series will come away with a little more appreciation and respect for what these guys do.

Riddler's Fayre sequel due

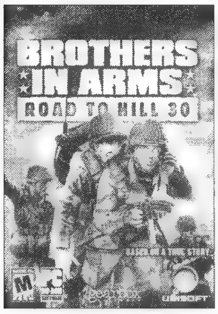


THE LION Graphic Bible artist Jeff Anderson and writer Steve Carroll are back with **The Game of Revenge** *[cover right]* the second instalment of their five-book Medieval saga, **Riddler's Fayre**.

To be published by Usharp Comics on August 30, the 60-page hardcover is set in the City of London during the winter of 1199 AD. The amnesiac Aeden is still seeking his identity whilst the others are searching for the secret of the First Matter that will lead them to the Philosopher's Stone.

The sequel to 2005's **The Vaults of the Mind**, the 7x10½" volume is priced £7.99.

Brothers in Arms set to Dynamite



BRIAN Reed has signed on to write the latest addition to Dynamite's roster of licenced titles.

The **Ms Marvel** writer is on board to script **Brothers in Arms**, the New Jersey-based publisher's first acquisition that does not derive from movies, TV or comics. Instead the ongoing title is based on UbiSoft/Gearbox Software's computer game – a "first-person shooter" – of the same name.

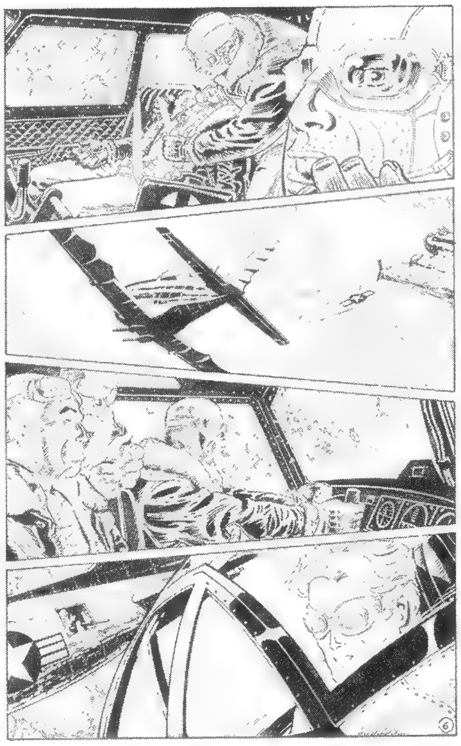
While an artist has yet to be assigned to the project, the comic's release is scheduled to tie-in with the November premiere of ***Hell's Highway***, the latest in the series based on the true story of the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment of the famed 101st Airborne Division who were dropped behind German Lines on D-Day.

Shown above is the cover to 2005's ***Road to Hill 30***, the first instalment in the ***Brothers in Arms*** series.

Golden Age Hillman hero flies again

MOONSTONE is reuniting Chuck Dixon with **Airboy**, the young World War II flying ace whose adventures are among the writer's earliest professional work.

The Chicago-based publisher is planning to bring back the character in a 48-pager that it will serialise in eight-page episodes in other of its titles. Drawn by Argentinian veteran Angel 'Lito' Fernández *[see sample story page, above]* making his US debut, the story recounts the first meeting between Airboy and his nemesis, the beautiful but deadly Nazi, Valkyrie. It was originally set for 2005 publication as **Airboy '42: Best of Enemies** by Shooting Star Comics but the title never materialised.



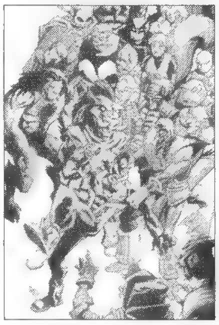
"Chuck offered us a very generous deal we couldn't refuse," Moonstone publisher Joe Gentile explained. "He wanted to finish this Airboy story, and do a whole new project with Airboy and G-8. He came to us because G-8 is owned by the same licensors that owns The Spider, so we have the license to do a comic with G-8 if we are so inclined. I only peripherally know about G-8. He's a post WWI era fighter pilot – a part of a secret spy organisation. He's very similar in a way to Captain Midnight. I do know that G-8 was one of the longest running pulp characters.

"We'd like to do other team-up books down the line, possibly with the aforementioned Captain Midnight and some of the other Airboy family of characters," Gentile added. "We're aiming for some high flyin' adventure."

● Created by Charles Biro, Dick Wood and Al Camy, Airboy first appeared in 1942 second issue of Hillman Periodicals' **Air Fighter Comics**. Renamed **Airboy Comics** with volume 2 #11 (1945), the series ran until 1953 when Hillman axed its comicbook line.

By 1986 the Hillman characters were in the public domain and Eclipse Comics took advantage by launching its own **Airboy** title. Written exclusively by Chuck Dixon, who also scripted many of the spin-offs from the series, this ran 50 issues until 1989.

No redemption for new Ant-Man



AFTER just one year in the costume, Marvel's third Ant-Man, Eric O'Grady is losing his title.

Written by Robert Kirkman and drawn by Phil Hester and Ande Parks, **Irredeemable Ant-Man** is being axed with #12 *[cover left; art by Hester]*. The $2.99 issue ships on September 19.

Discussing the series' cancellation, Kirkman said, "Frankly, with a Marvel book, the fan base is invested in the 'universe' so the 'core' titles, the titles that effect the universe the most, are what sell the most. You start at say, I don't know, **New Avengers** and you work your way backwards. As a title begins to affect the main universe less and less, you see them appearing lower and lower on the chart. That's pretty much how it works. That's why company-wide crossovers are so successful. It makes all the books matter.

"**Ant-Man** was firmly set in the Marvel Universe – but it didn't effect it, it just played on the fringe of the universe and danced a little with the core continuity," he explained. "Who can blame readers really? If you're going to invest in the Marvel Universe – that's a high dollar monthly commitment. So, of course, only the most dedicated readers are going to venture out for books like **The Irredeemable Ant-Man**.

"Now there are flukes, things that don't follow that general rule, like **Marvel Zombies** for instance. Man – I wish I had the clout of the fella who wrote that," the ever-jocular writer concluded.

Markosia snares giant ape

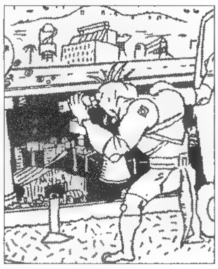
KONG
KING OF SKULL ISLAND

HAVING acquired the comicbook rights to the world's most famous ape, Markosia is kicking off the 75th anniversary celebrations of the first appearance of Merian C. Cooper's King Kong by giving the giant simian known as the Eight Wonder of the World his own title.

Kong: King of Skull Island is scripted by Chuck Satterlee, who writes Markosia's **Heretic** six-parter. Drawn by newcomer Dan O'Connor, it is an adaptation of Joe DeVito's 2004 Dark Horse novel of the same name, which is a prequel-cum-sequel to the classic 1933 movie, or 2005's Peter Jackson-directed blockbusting remake.

The series is previewed in an October-shipping 20-page #0. Priced $1.99/£1.25, the one-shot addresses such question as: What happened after the Kong's fall from the Empire State Building? Where did the body go? What happened to Carl Denham? What is Kong's relevance to the mysterious Skull Island? Where did the wall come from and what is it there for?

Panter's Martian strip collected



FANTAGRAPHICS is compiling a collection of a lesser-known work by a pioneer of the post-underground, new wave comics movement.

Scheduled for release next January priced $29.95 is the 208-page **Dal Tokyo**. Not only the first complete reprinting of Gary Panter's eponymous series set on a Mars inhabited by Texan and Japanese workers. The uniquely-sized 16½x6¼" hardcover will be the first time the **RAW** and **Jimbo** contributor's entire black and white story has been available in English.

Initially serialised in the **L.A. Reader** beginning in 1983, the strip was subsequently picked up by Japanese reggae magazine **Riddim**, where it has continued monthly for more then a decade.

Planetary's end draws nigh

THE CONCLUSION to the series launched by WildStorm in 1999 is in the pipeline at last.

While the final issue has yet to be scheduled, writer Warren Ellis announced, "Almost 10 years to the month that [artist] John Cassaday and I had our first conversation at San Diego about creating a new series: I have just completed and delivered the full script for **Planetary** #27, the final issue of the series."

Planetary #26 shipped October of last year. With Cassaday busy drawing Marvel's **Astonishing X-Men**, it is unlikely #27 will hit the shops earlier than 2008.

People in the News

VIRTUALLY every character he ever had a hand in creating has become an action figure. Now it's his turn.

The co-founder of the Marvel Universe, Stan Lee is to become part of Hasbro's ***Marvel Legends*** line. Debuted at the San Diego Comic-Con in July, the 6" tall Stan Lee Action Figure is priced $14.99. A limited edition, it features "The Man" in his trademark khaki pants and windbreaker.

DAVE Olbrich *[pictured left; art by Matt Bausch]* has been hired by Content House, a production/management company, to be its manager for creative talent and intellectual properties.

Olbrich, who has been working in the comics industry for the past 25 years in a variety of roles encompassing publishing, marketing, editing and representation, is to focus on industry creators and properties, management agreements and marketing clients to companies for movies, TV, videogames, and Internet projects. He recently signed contracts with **Bangers** author Gary Phillips and Oni's **One Bad Day** writer/artist Steve Rolston, who also drew **Queen & Country**.

Malibu Comics' original publisher, Olbrich was also involved in the early days of Gorilla, the short-lived Image imprint founded by Kurt Busiek, George Pérez, Mark Waid, Tom Grummett, Mike Wieringo, Karl Kesel and Barry Kitson in 2000. He then moved on to Humanoids, where he was director of comics publishing from 2000-2002.

THE CHIEF Executive Officer for Marvel Entertainment's publishing and toy divisions is taking on additional roles.

Alan Fine has been appointed to the newly created position of Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer of Marvel Characters, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Marvel Entertainment. In his new position Fine – who retains his current positions – will be responsible for directing Marvel's efforts to support and strengthen its brands.

Fine became CEO of Marvel's toy division in 1998 and took over the publisher's seat in 2004.

WITH his **Full Color** graphic novel hitting the shops in July and after just seven months in the post, Mark Haven Britt is quitting as Image's Public Relations and Marketing Coordinator to focus full time on his comics career.

Replacing him is Joe Keatinge *[pictured right]* who told **CI**, "I've been with Image Comics for three out of the five years I've been working professionally in comics. Within those years I've tackled just about every aspect you can think of from production to trafficking to now marketing. I'm really looking forward to working with Image in this new capacity."

GIANLUCA Glazer has left Boom! Studios. His place as publishing coordinator has been taken by Cody DeMatteis, son of **Formerly Known as the Justice League** and **Abadazad** writer J.M. DeMatteis.

VIRGIN Comics has hired **Firestorm** writer Stuart Moore *[pictured left]* to edit the as-yet unnamed science fiction imprint it is developing in conjunction with the Sci Fi Channel.

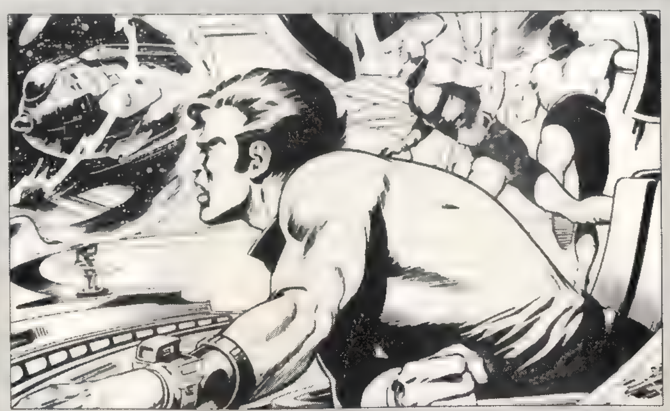
Moore, who is also writing Marvel's forthcoming **New Avengers/Transformers** one-shot, worked for seven years at St Martin's Press, where he edited a variety of books including science fiction, mysteries, pop culture and humour.

In 1990, he joined DC. A founding editor of its Vertigo imprint, he also helped set up Helix, the short-lived SF line, where he was responsible for such titles as **Gemini Blood**, **Vermillion** and **Cyberella**. In 2000, he moved across to Marvel where he edited the Marvel Knights line until 2002 when he left to concentrate on his career as a writer.

TOP COW has signed newcomer Michael Broussard *[pictured right]* to an exclusive contract.

For the past six months, the artist has been training in the Top Cow studios under Marc Silvestri. His first published work – assisting his mentor on Marvel's **Civil War: The Initiative** – was followed in June by **Top Cow/Marvel: Unholy Union**, which was written by Ron Marz. His solo debut, the 40-pager featured Witchblade, The Darkness, Doctor Strange, the Hulk and Ghost Rider.

His next assignment is pencilling **The Darkness**, which is being relaunched in the autumn. Also written by Marz, the series is being inked by **Green Arrow** and **Irredeemable Ant-Man** artist Phil Hester.



2000 AD artist 1938-2007

A tribute by David Roach.

MASSIMO Belardinelli, who died in March this year, was one of the artistic founders of **2000 AD** and went on to become one of its most prolific artists.

His earliest work in his native Italy involved painting backgrounds for animated cartoons through the studio of Sergio Rosi. When the Rosi studio began to produce comics for Fleetway Belardinelli became its main inker ; usually over the pencils of Giorgio Cambiotti. This first batch of British work included stints on *The Steel Claw* for the **Super Library** series (**Stupendous Series** #3 , 9 and 15) and **Valiant** (for much of 1968) as well as *The Waxer* and *Flames of the Forest* for **Lion** (1969-70).

Sex and sadism

Other Studio Rosi commissions included the notorious Italian sex and sadism digests **Messalina** and **Jacula**. In 1969 Belardinelli switched to Alberto Giolitti's studio where he supplied background inks for the German SF strip **Perry Rodan** and Gold Key's **Star Trek** comic where his trademark ultra-detailed star-scapes gave a hint of things to come.

When The Giolitti Studio was asked to supply artists for the new wave of Boys Weeklies initiated by Pat Mills, Belardinelli contributed his first significant solo art jobs – *Rat Pack* for **Battle** (1975-77) and *Green's Grudge War* and *Spinball* for **Action** ('76-77) . When the third of Mills' revolutionary titles, **2000 AD**, was in the planning stages Belardinelli was the obvious choice to draw its star attraction: a gritty revamp of the legendary Dan Dare.

Three decades later it's barely remembered that in the comic's early years Massimo Belardinelli was **2000 AD**'s most popular artist, initially eclipsing such rising stars as Mike McMahon and Dave Gibbons. His *Dan Dare [see art, above]* and other early strips such as *Inferno* and *Flesh* Book 2 combined dynamic American-influenced action with gloriously, obsessively detailed rendering in a style that was enormously seductive if occasionally a little stiff. His other notable **2000 AD** features included such perennial favourites as *Blackhawk*, *Meltdown Man*, *Slaine*, *The Mean Team* and *Moon Runners*, as well as numerous *Future Shocks*.

Sneaky self portraits

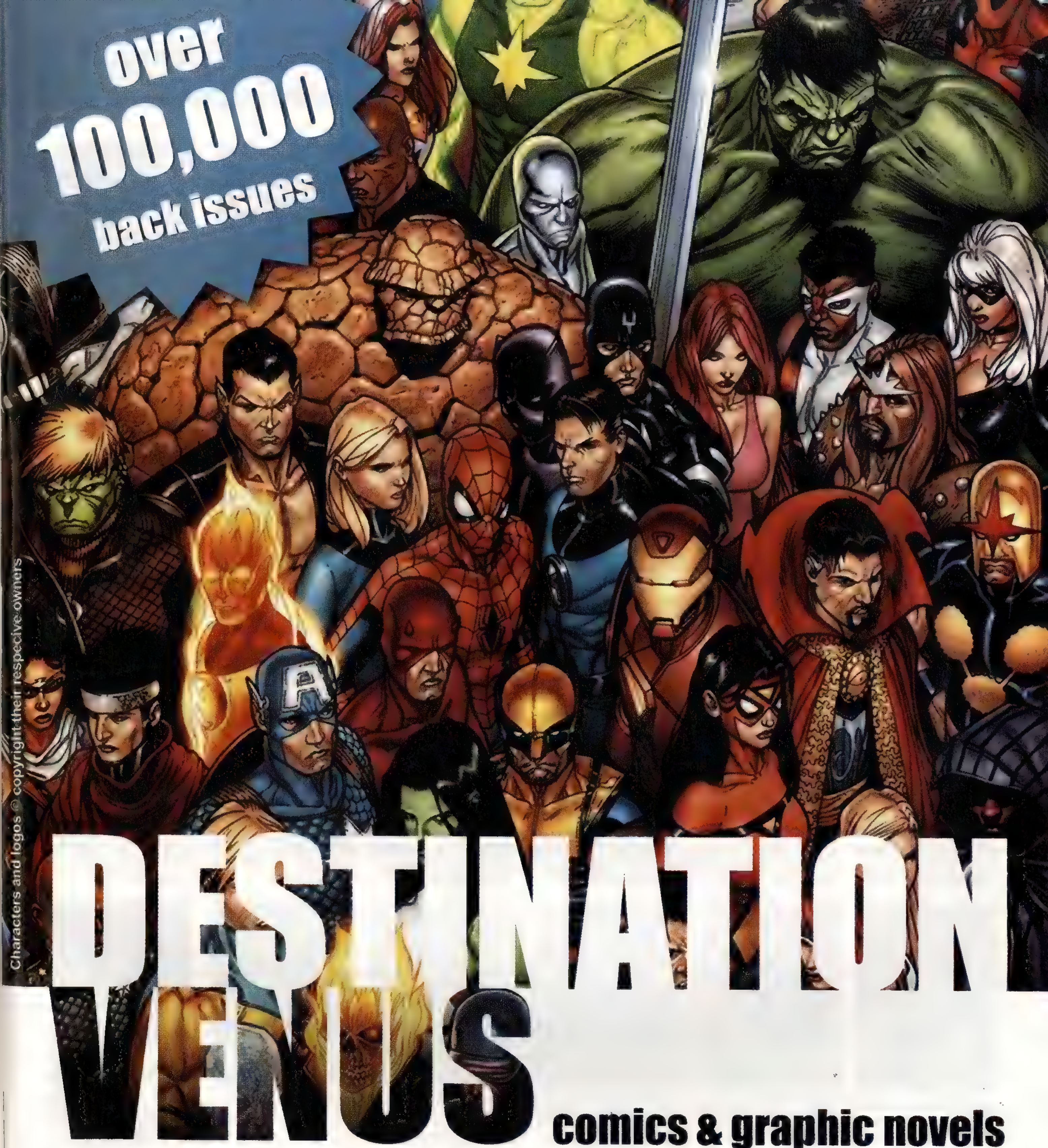
Probably the strip he will be most remembered for however is Alan Grant's long-running *Ace Trucking Co.* (1981-82 and '84-86) which highlighted his humorous side. One of the quirkier aspects of his period drawing *Ace* was his delight in sneaking in self portraits throughout the series (just look for the ever-present man with a beard and that's him!). Outside **2000 AD** you could also find Belardinelli strips in **Tornado** (*Angry Planet*) and **Warlord** (*Code Name Warlord*).

As the '80s progressed his output perhaps lost some of its sparkle, the one notable exception being the imaginative and just plain weird *The Dead* which briefly appeared in 1987.

When Alberto Giolitti died in 1993 his studio was wound up and Belardinelli's contact with the UK was severed putting an end to his **2000 AD** work. In fact a later editorial reported that he had died.

However while talking to the Italian historian Alberto Beccatini last year he mentioned that not only was the great man still alive but that he had an address for him The news was circulated through the **2000 AD** message boards and contact was made resulting in new commissions and many fan letters. In the intervening years Belardinelli had concentrated on illustration work but the new commissions showed he could still thrill despite failing health.

Sadly he was never able to return to the comic which made his name but he leaves behind a sizable and much loved body of work.


over
100,000
back issues

Characters and logos © copyright their respective owners

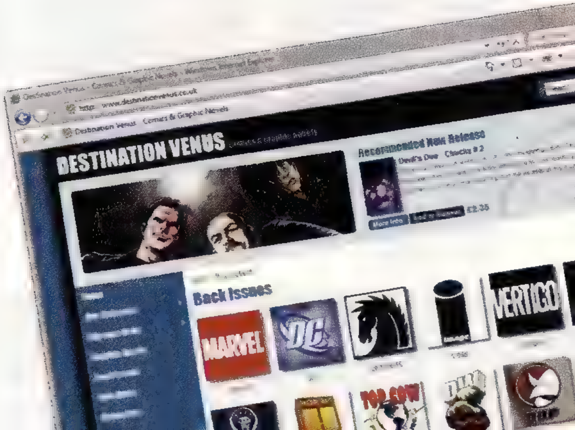
DESTINATION VENUS comics & graphic novels

The Future of Comic Shops is Now!

- Stocking a full range of new release and back-issue comics and graphic novels
- Full computerised subscription and ordering service
- We accept credit cards and PayPal

www.destinationvenus.co.uk

5 Westminster Arcade, Parliament St, Harrogate, HG1 2RN
Tel: 01423 502300 email: info@destinationvenus.co.uk


Destination Venus - Comics & Graphic Novels - Windows Internet Explorer
http://www.destinationvenus.co.uk
Destination Venus - Comics & Graphic Novels
DESTINATION VENUS
Recommended New Release
Devil's Due Chucky # 2
More Info
£2.35
Back Issues
MARVEL
DC
VERTIGO
TOP COW

Quality comics available from Quality Comics

Will Eisner's **The Spirit** came to life as a US syndicated Sunday newspaper section in 1940 and ran weekly until 1952. Following the Quality and Fiction House Golden Age series, it next appeared as a 2-issue series of Harvey Giants (1966). But it was in the 1970s with Warren Publishing's magazine version that it gained an international profile. While Warren dropped the title at #16 (1977), Kitchen Sink continued the magazine to #41 and launched companion title **Will Eisner Quarterly**.

SPIRIT #1..........**£12.50** (1974) FN+ (6.5) 68 pages with 8-page colour section.

SPIRIT #2.............**£7.50** (1974) FN+ (7.5) 68 pages with 8-page colour section

SPIRIT #3.............**£9.50** (1974) VFN (8.0) 68 pages with 8-page colour section.

SPIRIT #4..........**£8.50** (1974) VFN- (7.5) 76 pages with 8-page colour section.

SPIRIT #5.............**£9.50** (1974) vfn (8.0) 76 pages with 8-page colour section.

SPIRIT #6...........**£9.50** (1975) VFN+ (8.5) 76 pages with 8-page colour section.

SPIRIT #7.............**£9.50** (1975) VFN+ (8.5) 68 pages with 8 page colour section.

SPIRIT #8...........**£8.00** (1975) VFN- (7.5) 76 pages contains 8 page colour section.

SPIRIT #9............**£8.00** (1975) VFN- (7.5) 76 pages contains 8 page colour section.

GIANT SUMMER SPECIAL
THE SPIRIT

SPIRIT #10..........**£7.50** (1975) VFN- (7.5) 90 pages contains 8 page colour section.

SPIRIT #11..........**£6.00** (1975) VFN (8.0) 76 pages contains 8 page colour section.

SPIRIT #12..........**£6.00** (1976) VFN (8.0) 76 pages contains 8 page colour section.

SPIRIT #13..........**£3.50** (1976) FN (6.0) 76 pages, has small cover tear (1").

SPIRIT #14..........**£5.00** (1976) VFN- (7.5) 76 pages in black and white.

SPIRIT #15.........**£4.00** (1976) FN+ (6.5) 76 pages in black and white.

THE SPIRIT
SPIRIT

SPIRIT #16..........**£6.00** (1976) VFN (8.0) 76 pages in black and white.

SPIRIT #17..........**£4.00** (1977) VFN (8.0) 60 pages in black and white.

SPIRIT
Plus... Jules Feiffer ...And a Never-Before-Published Story!

SPIRIT #18..........**£4.50** (1977) VFN+ (8.5) 60 pages in black and white.

SPIRIT #19..........**£4.50** (1978) VFN+ (8.5) 60 pages in black and white.

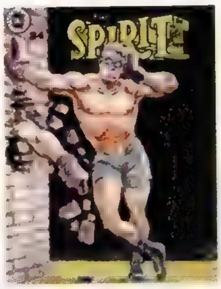
SPIRIT #20..........**£4.00** (1978) VFN- (7.5) 60 pages in black and white. Price sticker.

SPIRIT #21..........**£4.50** (1979) VFN+ (8.5) 60 pages in black and white.

SPIRIT
The Spirit... Blinded!

SPIRIT #22..........**£5.00** (1979) NM- (9.0) 60 pages in black and white.

SPIRIT #23..........**£5.00** (1980) NM- (9.0) 60 pages in black and white.



SPIRIT #24..........**£5.00** (1980) NM- (9.0) 60 pages in black and white.

Will Eisner's
SPIRIT
BEACON

SPIRIT #25..........**£5.00** (1980) NM- (9.0) 60 pages in black and white.

Will Eisner's
SPIRIT

SPIRIT #26..........**£5.00** (1980) NM- (9.0) 60 pages in black and white.

Will Eisner's
SPIRIT

SPIRIT #27..........**£4.50** (1980) VFN+ (8.5) 60 pages in black and white.

Will Eisner's
SPIRIT

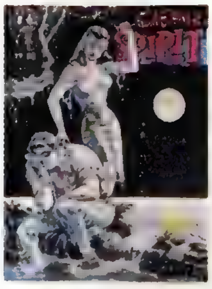
SPIRIT #28..........**£4.50** (1980) VFN+ (8.5) 60 pages in black and white.

Quality Comics

345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ Tel: 01273 566 222 qualitymailsale@yahoo.co.uk

PayPal

Quality comics available from Quality Comics



SPIRIT #29..........**£4.50**
(1980) VFN+ (8.5) 68 pages in black and white.

SPIRIT #30..........**£4.50**
(1981) VFN+ (8.5) 68 pages of "Spirit Jam" - with 50 artists!

SPIRIT #31..........**£5.00**
(1981) NM- (9.0) 68 pages with Harvey Kurtzman interview.

SPIRIT #32..........**£5.00**
(1981) NM- (9.0) 68 pages in black and white.

SPIRIT #33..........**£5.00**
(1982) NM- (9.0) 68 pages in black and white.

SPIRIT #34..........**£4.50**
(1982) VFN+ (8.5) 68 pages with Milton Caniff interview (pt 1)

SPIRIT #35..........**£4.50**
(1982) VFN+ (8.5) 68 pages with Caniff interview (part 2).

SPIRIT #37..........**£4.50**
(1982) VFN+ (8.5) 68 pages Joe Simon interview.

SPIRIT #38..........**£4.50**
(1982) VFN+ (8.5) 68 pages with colour section.

SPIRIT #39..........**£4.50**
(1982) VFN+ (8.5) 68 pages with Jack Kirby interview.

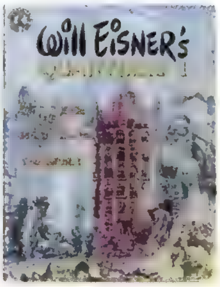
SPIRIT #40..........**£4.50**
(1983) VFN+ (8.5) 68 pages with Joe Kubert interview.

SPIRIT #41..........**£4.50**
(1976) VFN (8.0) 68 pages with CC Beck interview.

Will Eisner's QUARTERLY

A more personal and current title than the mainly reprint **Spirit**, Kitchen Sink's 1983-85 **Will Eisner's Quarterly** spotlighted the master's work in progress, with chapters of his 1980s biographical strips alongside interviews with well-known comics artists and a colour section (usually Spirit!).

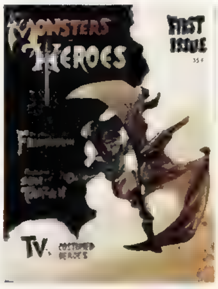
Definitely ahead of its time, the title frequently changed format within its seven-issue run – probably attempting to find a commercial market...



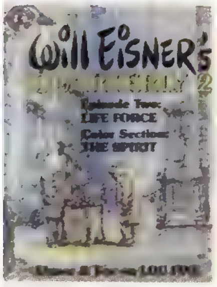
EISNER #1..........**£5.00**
(1983) NM- (9.2) 68 pages with colour, Neal Adams interview.

MONSTERS and HEROES

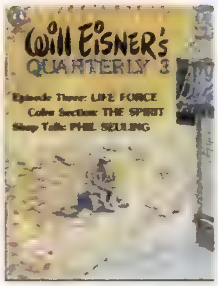
Rarely seen outside of the US, **Larry Ivie's Monsters and Heroes** magazine was an unusual creature. Its seven issue (1967-1970) run was a curious amalgam of **Famous Monsters, Creepy** and a fan magazine. Professionally printed, it had newsstand distribution with 48 b&w magazine size pages plus colour covers, featuring superheroes, monsters, films and comics!



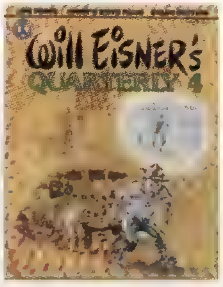
MONSTERS #1...**£17.50**
(1967) VFN- (7.5) Batman, Son of Tarzan, Frankenstein.



EISNER #2..........**£4.00**
(1984) NM- (9.2) 68 pages with colour, Eisner on Lou Fine.



EISNER #3..........**£3.50**
(1984) VFN (8.0) 68 pages with colour, Phil Seuling on the trade.



EISNER #4..........**£4.00**
(1984) NM- (9.2) 68 pages squarebound with colour.

MONSTERS #2...**£15.00**
(1967) VFN (8.0) Jeff Jones, ERB, Siegfried, Superman TV.

MONSTERS #3...**£10.00**
(1968) FN (6.0) Wrightson, Kong, ERB, Captain Video.

MONSTERS #5...**£15.00**
(1969) VFN (8.0) Comicons, Frankenstein, Capt Midnight.

EISNER #5..........**£4.00**
(1985) NM- (9.2) 68 pages squarebound with colour.

EISNER #6..........**£4.00**
(1985) NM- (9.2) 68 pgs squarebound with colour. Jack Davis.

EISNER #7..........**£2.50**
(1985) VFN (8.0) 36 pgs black & white. All-new contents.

METAL HURLANT

N°1 8F.

In 1975, three French comics creators – Jean (Moebius) Giraud, Jean-Pierre Dionnet and Phillipe Druillet – felt disillusioned by the property ownership situation with their publisher, Dargaud, and founded their own self-published **Metal Hurlant** magazine and led their company, Les Humanoids Associes, to become a publishing hotbed of revolutionary creators.

METAL #1..........**£14.50**
(1975) VFN+ (8.5) 68 pages Moebius, Druillet, Corben...

Quality Comics
345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ Tel: 01273 566 222 qualitymailsale@yahoo.co.uk

VISA · Your Debit Card · PayPal

Quality comics available from Quality Comics

VAMPIRELLA

What can you say about Drakulon's favourite not-so-little girl? She's almost been the star of a movie so many times, you have to wonder if the backers are more attracted to the casting couch than celluloid. Vampi was created by Forrest J Ackerman and designed by Frank Frazetta and Trina Robbins (with such a mixed trio of parents, is there any wonder she turned out like she did!?). She flourished under Josep Toutain's Catalan art agency of Selecciones Illustradas and the penwork of Pepe Gonzalez (#12 on). Harris Publishing keeps trying to revamp her, but it just ain't the same!

VAMPIRELLA

VAMPI #6..........£9.50
(1970) VG (4.0) Has bottom right corner chip, creased.

NOW! FULL COLOR COMICS
VAMPIRELLA

VAMPI #25........£12.50
(1973) FN+ (6.5) 68 pages with 8-page colour section.

VAMPIRELLA

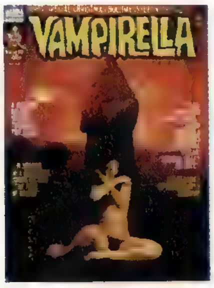
VAMPI #35........£25.00
(1974) VFN (8.0) 68 pages with 8-page colour section.

VAMPIRELLA

VAMPI #38.......£24.50
(1974) VFN+ (8.5) Spoiled only by UK price sticker.

VAMPIRELLA

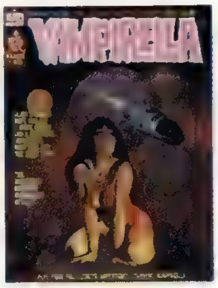
VAMPI #39........£11.50
(1975) FN+ (6.5) 68 pages with 8-page colour section.


VAMPIRELLA

VAMPI #40........£17.50
(1975) VFN- (7.5) Spoiled by sticker damage over issue no.

VAMPIRELLA

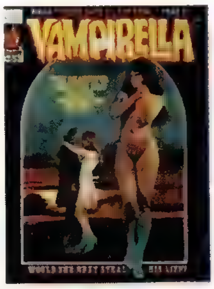
VAMPI #43.......£17.50
(1975) VFN- (7.5) Very small edge bumps only fault.


VAMPIRELLA

VAMPI #46........£17.50
(1975) VFN- (7.5) 84 page giant with 8 page colour section.

VAMPIRELLA

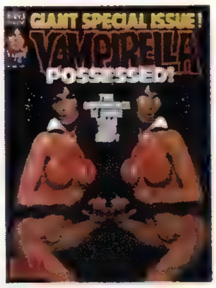
VAMPI #50........£19.50
(1975) VFN- (7.5) Special with full length Vampi strip.


VAMPIRELLA

VAMPI #59........£14.50
(1977) VFN (8.0) Spoiled only by shop sticker (on logo).

ROOK TO THE RESCUE ON PAGE 5
VAMPIRELLA
MONSTER?

VAMPI #70........£16.50
(1978) VFN+ (8.5) Superb Ken Kelly cover painting.


GIANT SPECIAL ISSUE!
VAMPIRELLA
POSSESSED!

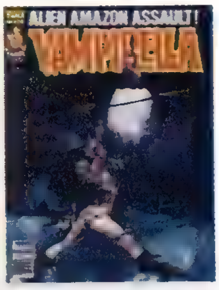
VAMPI #76........£19.50
(1979) VFN (8.0) 84 page giant, beautiful Alex Nino strip.

VAMPIRELLA

VAMPI #77.......£18.00
(1979) VFN- (7.5) 76 pages in black and white. Russ Heath.

VAMPIRELLA
SHANGHAIED

VAMPI #79........£17.50
(1979) NM- (9.2) 76 pages in black and white.


ALIEN AMAZON ASSAULT!
VAMPIRELLA

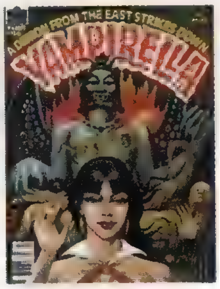
VAMPI #80........£15.00
(1979) VFN+ (8.5) 76 pages in black and white.

VAMPIRELLA

VAMPI #83.......£12.50
(1979) VFN+ (8.5) 68 pages with superb Jeff Jones strip.

VAMPIRELLA

VAMPI #84........£11.50
(1980) VFN (8.0) Back up to 76 pages in black and white.


VAMPIRELLA

VAMPI #86........£11.50
(1980) VFN (8.0) 76 pages in black and white.

VAMPIRELLA

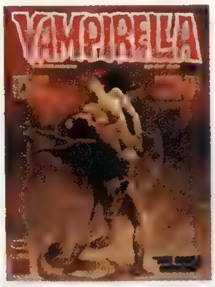
VAMPI #88........£10.00
(1980) VFN- (7.5) 76 pages in black and white.

VAMPIRELLA

VAMPI #90........£11.50
(1980) VFN (8.0) 76 pages in black and white.

VAMPIRELLA

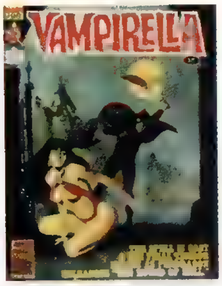
VAMPI #92........£11.50
(1979) VFN (8.0) Back down to 68 pages in black and white.


VAMPIRELLA

VAMPI #93........£10.00
(1981) VFN- (7.5) 68 pages in black and white.

VAMPIRELLA

VAMPI #94........£19.50
(1981) NM- (9.2) Back up to 76 pages in black and white.


VAMPIRELLA

VAMPI #96........£17.50
(1981) NM- (9.2) 76 pages in black and white.

VAMPIRELLA

VAMPI #97.......£15.00
(1981) VFN+ (8.5) 76 pages in black and white.

VAMPIRELLA

VAMPI #98........£19.50
(1981) NM- (9.2) 76 pages in black and white.

VAMPIRELLA

VAMPI #105......£10.00
(1982) VFN- (7.5) 68 pages, full length Vampi by Gonzalez.

Quality Comics
345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JU Tel: 01273 566 222 qualitymailsale@yahoo.co.uk

VISA Your Debit Card PayPal

Quality comics available from Quality Comics

CREEPY

CREEPY
COMICS TO GIVE YOU THE CREEPS!
COLLECTOR'S EDITION

The one that started it all: Jim Warren's **Creepy**, with stories modelled on the Comics Code banned 1950s EC Comics, but using the same magazine format as **MAD** (ironically the sole surviving EC title). Warren gathered many of the artists from horror comics' heyday to chill a whole new generation.

Like most innovators, he ran low on finance within a few years and lost his formative creators. But, after a fallow period of mainly substandard art, he linked his US writers with Josep Toutain's Spanish artists for a new horror highpoint.

2 fn- (5.5) 1965.........**£12.50**
(Frazetta-c, Crandall, Morrow, Davis, Evans, Williamson...)
3 fn+ (6.5)................**£10.00**
(Frazetta-c, Crandall, Morrow, Torres, Evans, Williamson...)
4 fn+ (6.5)................**£10.00**
(Frazetta-c, Crandall, Morrow, Davis, Torres, Williamson...)
6 vfn (8.0)..................**£17.50**
(Frazetta-c, Crandall, Morrow, Severin, Toth, Williamson...)
7 vfn- (7.5)..................**£15.00**
Frazetta-c, Crandall, Morrow, Toth, Severin, Williamson...)
9 fn+ (6.5)................**£10.00**
(Frazetta-c, Crandall, Morrow, Toth, Wood, Ditko, Colan...)
14 fn (6.0)....................**£9.50**
(1st Adams, Colan Wood Ditko)
24 vfn- (7.5)..............**£12.00**
(Sutton, Crandall, Ditko...)

30 fn (6.0)....................**£7.50**
62 vfn- (7.5) **£16.00**
(8 pages colour by Wrightson)
70 vfn- (7.5) **£12.00**
(Poe by Wrightson, Corben...)
71 vfn- (7.5) **£12.00**
(All Luis Bermejo special)
72 vfn (8.0) **£14.00**
(All Jose Gual special)
73 nm- (9.0) **£17.50**
(All SF by Corben, Wrightson, Maroto, Severin, Ortiz, Neary)
74 vfn+ (8.5) **£15.00**
(80pg special with colour)
75 vfn (8.0) **£13.50**
(Adams, Toth, Wood, Wrightson)
89 vfn- (7.5) **£12.00**
(All War: Severin, Infantino...)
97 vfn (8.0) **£13.50**
(Bruce Jones, Nino, Ortiz)
100 vfn- (7.5) **£12.00**
(92 pgs, Severin, Heath, Nino)

102 nm- (9.0) **£6.75**
(92 pages, Simonson, Jansen)
105 vfn+ (8.5) **£6.50**
(84pgs, Heath, Nino, Mayerik)
108 vfn (8.0) **£6.50**
(76pgs, Nino, Alcala, Marcos)
111 vfn+ (8.5) **£6.50**
112 vfn (8.5) **£6.00**
113 nm- (9.0) **£15.00**
(All Berni Wrightson special)
117 vfn (8.0) **£5.75**
118 vfn- (7.5) **£5.00**
120 vfn+ (8.5) **£6.75**
125-128 vfn+ (8.5) **£6.50**
1968 Yearbook **£9.50**
fn (6.5) *early strips reprinted*
1969 Yearbook.........**£15.00**
vfn- (7.5) *early strips reprinted*
1970 Yearbook.........**£15.00**
vfn- (7.5) *early strips reprinted*
1971 Annual **£16.50**
vfn+ (8.5) *early strips reprinted*

EERIE

EERIE
FIRST ISSUE!
FROM THE EDITORS OF CREEPY
NO. 1 35¢ SEPTEMBER

Created as a companion title following the successful launch of **Creepy**, 1965's **Eerie** slowly developed its own identity. While **Creepy** specialised in short horror tales, **Eerie** featured recurring SF and fantasy heroes.

Ever fending off competition, publisher Warren rush-launched the title. Much to the frustration of fans, #1 *(right)* was an incredibly scarce black & white digest-sized 24 pager to establish title copyright. It reprinted **Creepy**'s *Bluebeard, Death Plane* and *The Invitation*.

2 fn+ (6.5) 1966 ......**£19.50**
(Frazetta-c, Crandall, Morrow, Davis, Toth, Severin, Colan...)
3 vfn- (7.5)..............**£19.50**
(Frazetta-c, Crandall, Morrow, Toth, Ditko, Severin...)
4 fn+ (6.5) **£9.50**
(Colan, Ditko, Toth, Crandall, Morrow, Torres, Williamson...)
7 vfn- (7.5)................**£16.50**
(Frazetta-c, Morrow, Severin, Toth, Wood, Williamson...)
16 fn+ (6.5) **£8.50**
(Toth, Craig, Orlando...)
19 vfn- (7.5).............**£12.00**
(Crandall, Morrow, Torres)
20 fn+ (6.5)..............**£7.50**
(Poe's House of Usher)
21 nm- (8.7).............**£20.00**
(Colon, Ditko, Grandanetti...)
22 vfn+ (7.5)...........**£17.50**
(Morrow, Ditko, Williamson...)

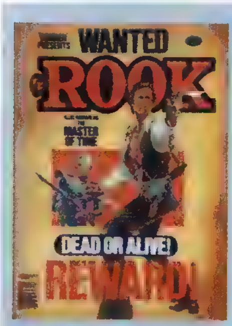
26 fn (6.0) **£6.00**
27 vfn+ (8.5) **£15.00**
28 vfn+ (8.5) **£15.00**
33 vf/nm (9.0) **£17.50**
Corben, Ken Barr, Pat Boyette)
36 vf/nm (9.0) **£17.50**
66 vfn- (7.5) **£9.50**
(Full-length El Cid by Mayo)
68 vf/nm (9.0) **£14.50**
Wrightson, Maroto, Ortiz, Neary)
70 vfn+ (8.5) **£10.00**
Wrightson, Maroto, Ortiz, Neary)
88 fn (6.0) **£5.00**
89 vfn (8.0) **£8.00**
90 vf/nm (9.0) **£13.50**
(Rich Corben colour section)
91 vf/nm (9.0) **£12.00**
94 nm- (9.2) **£15.00**
96 vf/nm (9.0) **£12.00**
97 vfn+ (8.5) **£9.00**
102 vf/nm (9.0) **£9.00**
103 vfn- (7.5) **£7.50**

105 vf/nm (9.0) **£8.00**
106 vf/nm (9.0) **£8.00**
107 vf/nm (9.0) **£8.00**
108 vf/nm (9.0) **£8.00**
110 vf/nm (9.0) **£7.00**
111 vf/nm (9.0) **£7.00**
112 vf/nm (9.0) **£7.00**
113 vf/nm (9.0) **£7.00**
114 vf/nm (9.0) **£7.00**
115 vf/nm (9.0) **£7.00**
116 vf/nm (9.0) **£7.00**
117 vf/nm (9.0) **£7.00**
118 vf/nm (9.0) **£7.00**
119 vf/nm (9.0) **£7.00**
120 vf/nm (9.0) **£8.00**
121 vf/nm (9.0) **£8.00**
123 vf/nm (9.0) **£9.00**
123 vf/nm (9.0) **£9.00**
1970 Yearbook **£25.00**
nm- (9.0) *early strips reprinted*
1971 Annual **£8.50**
fn+ (6.5) *early strips reprinted*

EERIE
COLLECTOR'S EDITION!

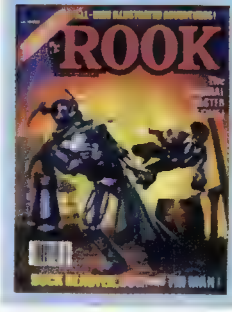
NEW TERROR IN THE CREEPY TRADITION
EERIE
A Strange Lurking Horror Haunts THE ISLAND AT WORLDS END!

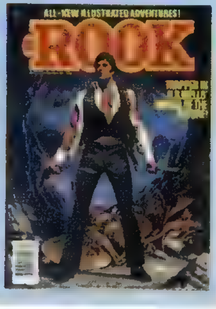
The ROOK

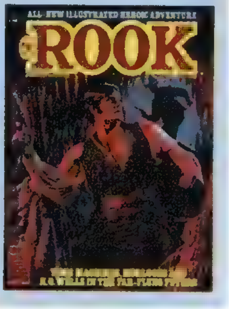

WARREN PRESENTS
WANTED
ROOK
MASTER OF TIME
DEAD OR ALIVE!
REWARD!

Spinning out of **Eerie** into a tryout issue of **Warren Presents** (left), **The Rook** - the Master of Time - was the company's only successful solo-star title other than **Vampirella**. Despite superb covers and content, it ran to only 14 issues (1979-1982).

Warren Presents #2: The Rook vf/nm (9.0) **£6.00**
Rook #1 nm (9.2) ...**£7.50**
#2-7 nm- (9.0) **£6.00**
#8-10 nm- (9.0) **£5.00**
#12-14 nm- (9.0) ...**£7.50**




ALL-NEW ILLUSTRATED ADVENTURES!
ROOK


ALL-NEW ILLUSTRATED HEROIC ADVENTURE
ROOK

1984

TOMORROW'S WORLD OF ILLUSTRATED ADULT FANTASY!
1984
EXPLOSIVE FIRST ISSUE SPECIAL

Launched in 1978 and somewhat short-sightedly "doing a **2000 AD**" Warren's sex 'n' sci-fi magazine added 10 years onto its title after the first 10 issues, foregoing the Orwell link in favour of sounding futuristic for longer with the new name **1994**. Shame that it ended with #29... in 1983!

Another US/Spanish co-production (US scripts drawn by Gonzalez, Ortiz, Giminez...) except for Warren diehards Nino, Nebres and Corben in most issues and Frank Thorne with his saucy future Red Sonja strip, *Ghita of Alizarr* (from #7 on).

1 nm- (9.2) **£9.50**
(84 pages. Wood, Corben)
2 nm- (9.2) **£8.50**
(84 pages. Wood, Corben)
3 nm- (9.2) **£7.50**
(Corben, Maroto, Nino)
4 vfn (8.0) **£6.00**
(92 pages, Corben colour)
5 nm- (9.0) **£7.50**
(Corben colour, Wally Wood)
6 nm- (9.0) **£7.50**
(Corben colour, Alex Nino)

7 nm- (9.2) **£7.50**
(Corben colour, first Ghita)
8 nm- (9.2) **£7.50**
(Corben colour, Thorne's Ghita)
9-10 nm- (9.2) **£7.50**
11-13 vfn (8.0) **£5.50**
14-20 vfn (8.0) **£5.00**
21 vfn (8.0) **£5.00**
(Frank Thorne's Ghita)
24-27 nm- (9.0) **£6.00**
29 nm- (9.0) **£6.00**
(68 pgs, Frank Thorne's Ghita)

EXPLOSIVE ILLUSTRATED ADULT FANTASY!
1984

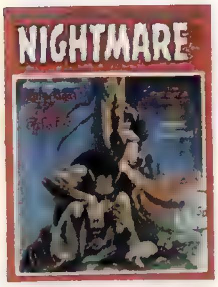
Quality Comics
345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ Tel: 01273 566 222 qualitymailsale@yahoo.co.uk

VISA MasterCard PayPal

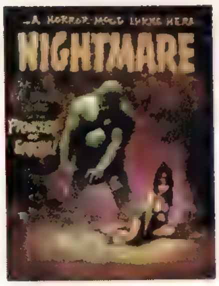
Quality comics available from Quality Comics

NIGHTMARE

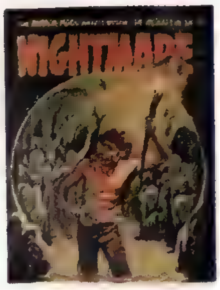
Outside of such false start titles as **Web of Horror** and **Thrilling Adventure Stories**, the best of the Warren clone titles had to be the "Skywald Horror-Mood" line from Sol Brodsky and the notorious 1960s IW Comics publisher Israel Waldman (hence the name *Sky-Wald* because *Brod-man* would have sounded even worse). Under the editorship of "Archaic" Al Hewetson, flagship title **Nightmare** led the pack, running to 23 black and white 68 page issues (1970-1975) plus three specials, featuring great European art plus the upcoming 1970s NY brat pack artists.



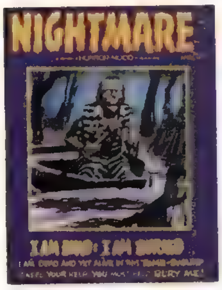
NIGHTMARE #9..£17.50 (1972) VFN (8.0) 68 pgs inc first "Shoggoths" HPL story.



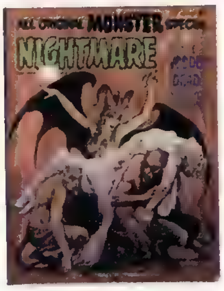
NIGHTMARE #10..£16.00 (1972) VFN- (7.5) 2nd Human Gargoyles (1st in **Psycho** #8).



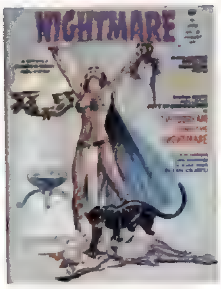
NIGHTMARE #11..£17.50 (1973) VFN+ (8.5) 68 pages with Man-Bat & Shoggoths.



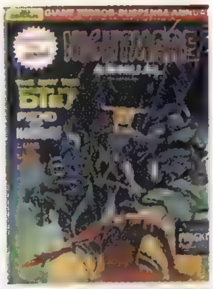
NIGHTMARE #12..£12.50 (1973) FN+ (6.5) Adapts Poe story "The Premature Burial".



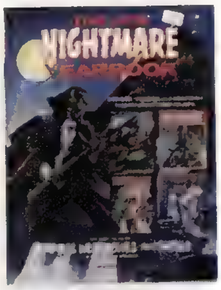
NIGHTMARE #16..£12.50 (1973) FN+ (6.5) Spoiled by UK sticker removal. Gene Day.



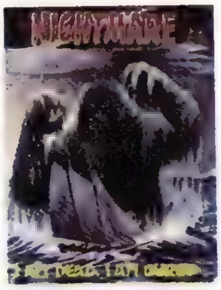
NIGHTMARE #20..£15.00 (1974) VFN- (7.5) Gargoyles plus 1st John Byrne pro work.



ANNUAL 1972 ......£17.50 VFN- (7.5) Includes Bruce Jones & Doug Moench work.



YEARBOOK 1974..£17.50 VFN- (7.5) Includes artwork by Doug Wildey & Ralph Reese.

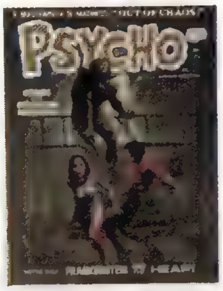


UK EDITION #3 ......£4.50 (1975) VFN+ (8.5) Reprints from various Skywald titles.

PSYCHO

The companion title to Skywald's **Nightmare**, again edited by Alan Hewetson, the 68 page **Psycho** was another far above average horror title with a range of top Spanish artists as the backbone, but peppered with solid US talent.

Launched with pre-code Avon Comics material, new work took over from #2. Notable for launching *The Human Gargoyles* and reviving *The Heap* (not the same character as the Hillman 1950s and Eclipse 1980s muck monster).

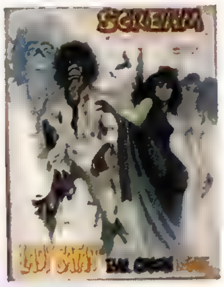


PSYCHO #4.......£16.50 (1971) VFN (8.0) Frankenstein & The Heap. Everett, Andru, Sutton

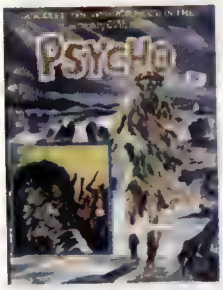
SCREAM

The final addition to Al Hewetson's "Horror-Mood" line of titles for Skywald was the 1973-launched **Scream**, which lasted only 11 issues before the company dropped the entire line of titles.

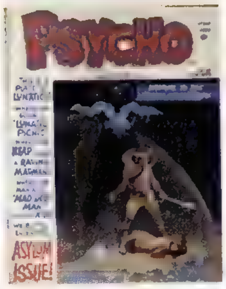
A worthy addition, if only for being the first US comic to star an African-American lead female character, Lady Satan. Out-of-copyright Edgar Allan Poe stories also featured and a Phantom of the Opera serial (#2-3).



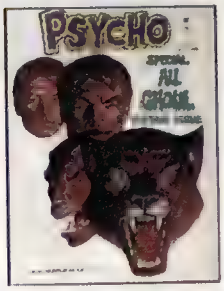
SCREAM #2 ....£7.50 (1973) FN+ (6.5) First Lady Satan, Pit and the Pendulum.



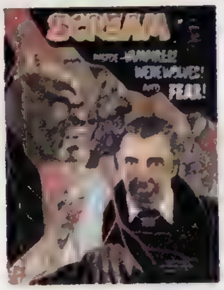
PSYCHO #10......£15.00 (1973) VFN (8.0) HP Lovecraft feature and comic strip.



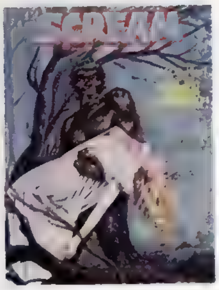
PSYCHO #12 ....£11.50 (1973) FN+ (7.5) Gardner Fox "Swordsman of Sarn" strip.



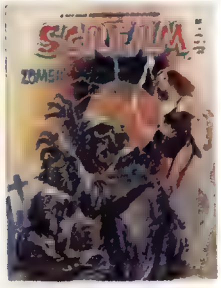
PSYCHO #15.....£11.50 (1975) FN+ (7.5) Solid copy but with slight foxing to cover.



SCREAM #3 ......£12.50 (1973) VFN- (7.5) Lady Satan, Fall of the House of Usher.



SCREAM #4.......£12.50 (1974) VFN- (7.5) Lady Satan Part 3, The Oblong Box.



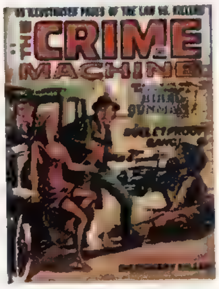
SCREAM #5.......£15.00 (1974) VFN (8.0) Poe & The Picture of Dorian Gray strips.

HELL-RIDER

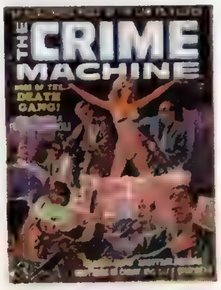
A non-supernatural forerunner to Marvel's Ghost Rider (both co-created by Gary Friedrich) **Hell-Rider** was Skywald's all-US title with art by Ross Andru, Syd Shores and Rich Buckler.

THE CRIME MACHINE

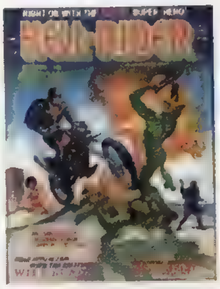
Reflecting the IW reprint days, Skywald's **Crime Machine** was an all reprint title which, like **Hell-Rider** ended with #2.



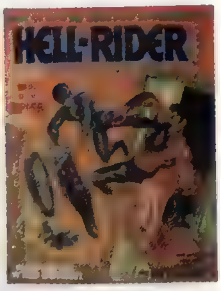
CRIME MACHINE #1... £5.00 (1971) FN+ (6.5) Two 1950s Joe Kubert strips.



CRIME MACHINE #2... £3.50 (1971) FN- (5.5) Torres & Infantino reprints.



HELL-RIDER #1..£12.50 (1971) VFN+ (8.5) Origin by Ayers + Andru, Esposito art.



HELL-RIDER #2..£10.00 (1971) VFN- (7.5) Art by Buckler, Shores and Andru.

Quality Comics

345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ Tel: 01273 566 222 qualitymailsale@yahoo.co.uk

Quality comics available from Quality Comics

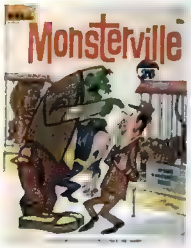
MONSTER MAGAZINES

James Warren used to seethe over the number of new titles which "stole" his formula of black and white magazine-szed comics. He even said he threw darts at photos of the plagiarists. When he told Dez Skinn that with **House of Hammer**, he was #27, Dez promptly mailed him a photo for his dart board. Here are some of Jim's other likely targets...

DEVILINA #2........£5.00 (1975) VFN (8.0) Seaboard, 68 pages, Frank Thorne art.

Grave Tales
The Grave Digger!

GRAVE TALES #1..£5.00 (1991) NM- (9.0) Hamilton, 48 pages. Morrow, Adkins...


Monsterville

MONSTERVILLE #1 25.00 (1962) FN- (5.5) Dell, 48 pgs of strips & cartoons. RARE!

Spirit World

SPIRIT WORLD #1..£7.50 (1971) FN+ (6.5) 68 pages of Jack Kirby, includes poster.

Thrilling Adventure Stories

THRILLING ADVENTURE STORIES #1.........£3.50 (1975) VFN+ (8.5) 68 pages.

Thrilling Adventure Stories
The World's Most Exciting Magazine!

THRILLING ADVENTURE STORIES #2.........£3.00 (1975) VFN (8.0) Adams, Toth.

Web of Horror
The Skin-Eaters!

WEB OF HORROR #1 .... £17.50 (1970) VFN+ (8.5) 48 pages, Wrightson, Kaluta.

Web of Horror

WEB OF HORROR #2... £15.00 (1970) VFN- (7.5) 48 pages by Wrightson, Kaluta...

MACABRE #1.....£12.50 (1975) VFN (8.0) 68 pages with Jeff Jones cover, Boyette, Colon

Weird Tales
Macabre

MACABRE #2.....£15.00 (1975) VFN (8.0) 68 pages with Boris cover, Severin, Boyette...

MYRON FASS'S EERIE PUBLICATIONS

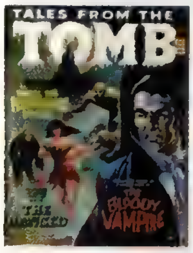
Artist turned publisher Myron Fass - the man who made Warren rush to trademark **Eerie** Magazine - should have called his line Sick Puppy Productions. They gloried in excess and were sick, sick, sick! You have been warned!

Horror Tales

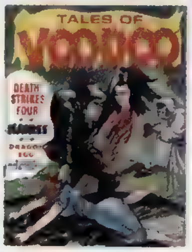
HORROR TALES v2 #1 (1970) VFN (8.0) **£17.50**

Horror Tales

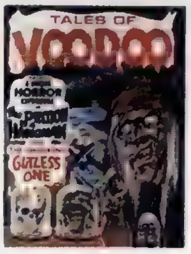
HORROR TALES v2 #2 (1970) VFN- (7.5) ...**£15.00**


Tales from the Tomb
The Bloody Vampire

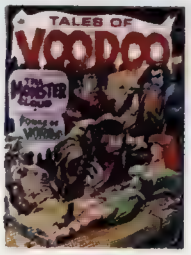
TALES FROM THE TOMB v6 #2 (1974) VG+ (4.5) **£5.00**


Tales of Voodoo
Death Strikes Four

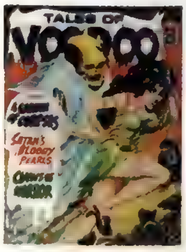
TALES OF VOODOO v2 #1 (1969) VF+ (8.5) ...**£15.00**


Tales of Voodoo
Gutless One

TALES OF VOODOO v3 #6 (1970) NM- (9.2) **£19.50**


Tales of Voodoo
The Monster Cloud

TALES OF VOODOO v4 #2 (1970) VF+ (8.5) **£15.00**


Tales of Voodoo
Satan's Bloody Pearls

TALES OF VOODOO v6 #6 (1973) NM- (9.2) **£19.50**

Terror Tales
Monsters from Worlds Beyond

TERROR TALES v2 #5 (1970) NM- (9.2) **£19.50**

Weird
Zombie
Witches Revenge

WEIRD v4 #2 (1970) FN (6.0) minor creases ...**£9.50**

Witches
Zombie

WITCHES' TALES v4 #4 (1970) VF+ (8.5) ...**£15.00**

WOW! LOOK, KIDS... HORROR comics too!

Rounding off the horror theme, here's a sampling of the four-colour standard comic-sized chillers and thrillers that the US produced in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. More to follow...

Alarming Adventures

Alarming Adventures 1 (1962) VF- (7.5) Crandall + Williamson art..**£27.50**

Alarming Tales

Alarming Tales 6 (1958) VF+ (8.5) Severin cover + Al Williamson art..**£49.50**

Forbidden Worlds

Forbidden Worlds #9 (1952) VF- (7.5) A-bomb explosion story......**£49.50**

Ghosts #1 (1971) VG+ (4.5) Spoiled by corner scuff, DC giant......**£7.50**

The Munsters

The Munsters #5 (1966) VF (8.0) Great photo cover, rare in high grade ...**£39.50**

Out of this World

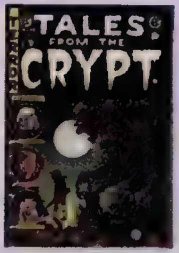
Out of this World #7 (1958) VG+ (4.5) Giant, off staples, 3 x Ditko...**£12.50**

Secret Mysteries

Secret Mysteries #16 (1954) VF- (7.5) Myron Fass cover art **£57.50**

Strange Tales
Beware!

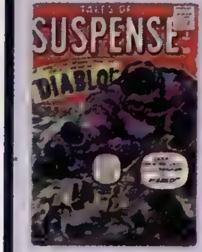
Strange Tales #78 (1960) FN- (5.5).............**£22.50**


Tales from the Crypt

Tales from the Crypt 46 (1954) FN- (5.5)...**£55.00**

Tales of Horror
Terror Man

Tales of Horror #1 (1952) FN+ (6.5)..**£75.00**


Tales of Suspense
Diablo

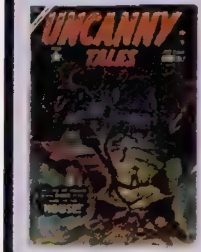
Tales of Suspense #9 (1960) VF- (7.5)..**£65.00**

Twilight Zone

Twilight Zone #1 (1962) FN+ (6.5)...........**£17.50**

Tower of Shadows

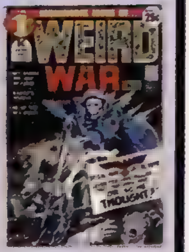
Tower of Shadows #1 (1969) VF- (7.5)..**£17.50**


Uncanny Tales

Uncanny Tales #27 (1954) FR (brittle)..**£7.95**

Unusual Tales

Unusual Tales #11 (1958) FN+ (6.5)..**£25.00**



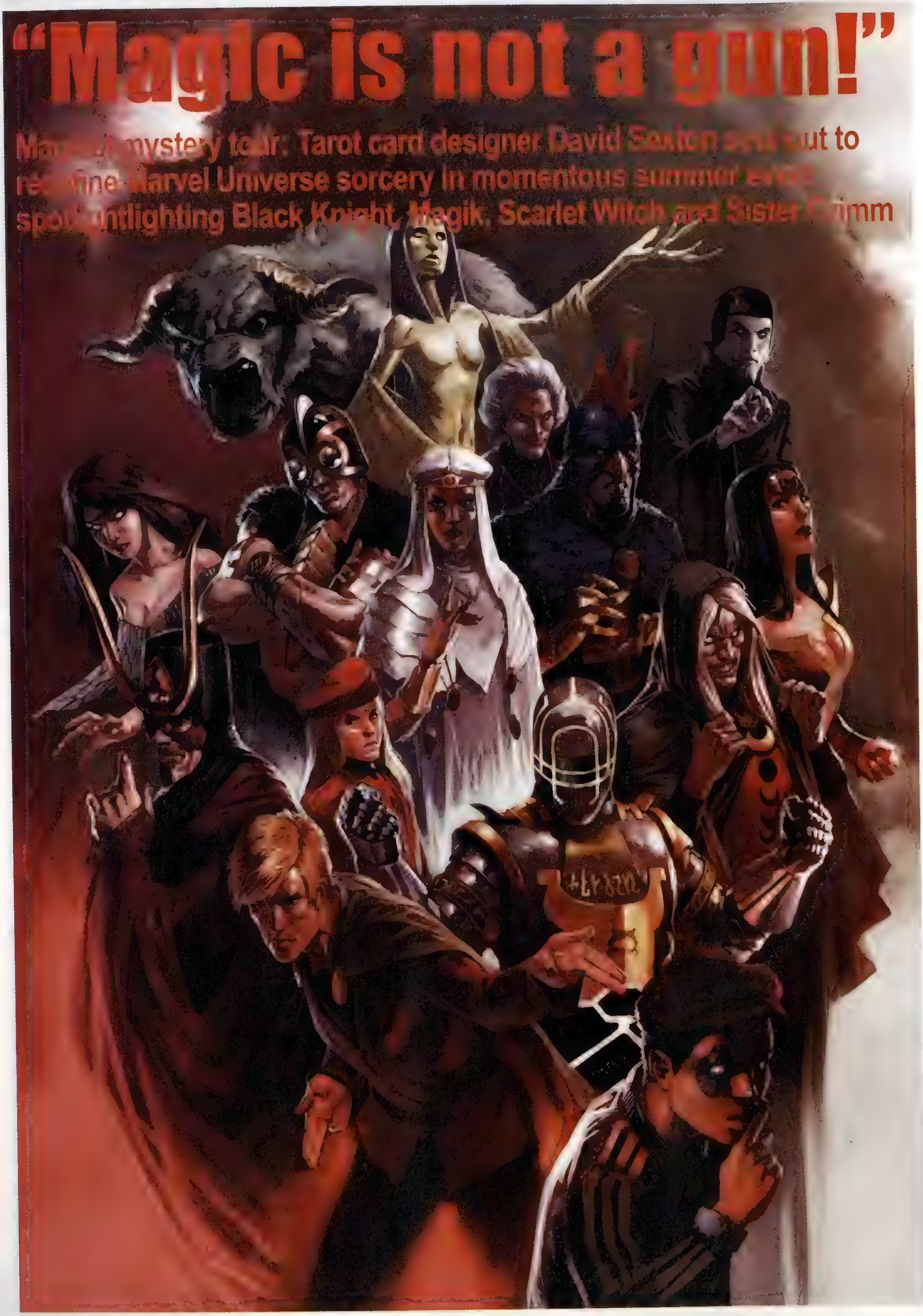
Weird War Tales #1 (1971) FN (6.0)..**£27.50**

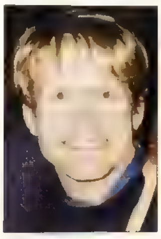
Quality Comics
345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ Tel: 01273 566 222 qualitymailsale@yahoo.co.uk

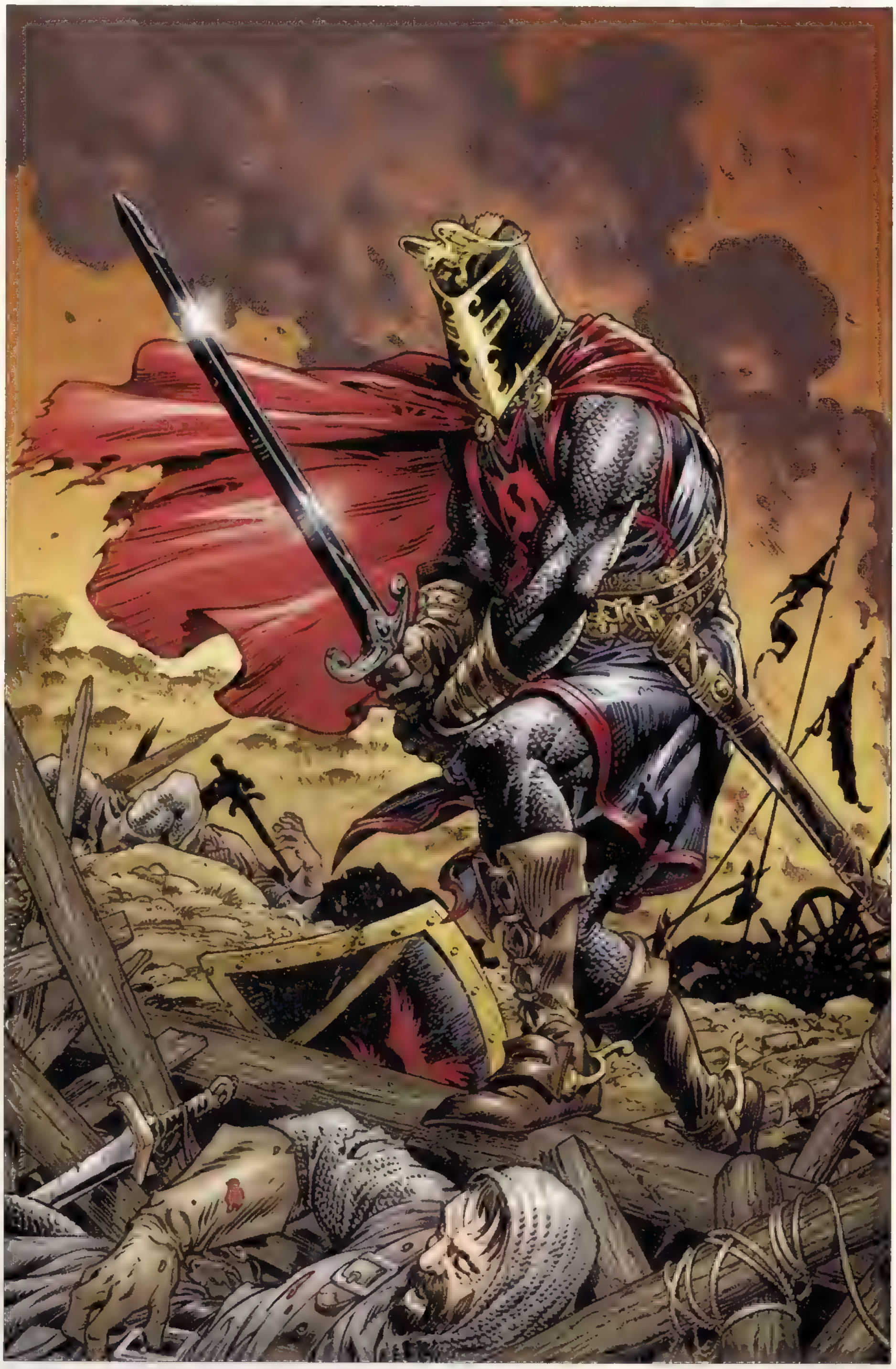
VISA MasterCard PayPal

"Magic is not a gun!"

Magical mystery tour: Tarot card designer David Sexton sets out to redefine Marvel Universe sorcery in momentous summer event spotlighting Black Knight, Magik, Scarlet Witch and Sister Grimm







*Above: The splash page from the lead story in the 40-page Mystic Arcana #2: Black Knight #1; pencil art by **Thunderbolts Presents: Zemo – Born Better**'s Tom Grummett. The $2.99 Marvel one-shot is available now.*

TO MOST fans, magic in the Marvel Universe is synonymous with Doctor Strange. But sorcery creeps into every nook and cranny of that superhero cosmos with practitioners as varied as Agatha Harkness, Jesse Black Crow, Mordred the Mystic and Doctor Druid.

But even so, the Master of the Mystic Arts and such Strange acquaintances as the Dread Dormammu, the Hoary Hosts of Hoggoth and the Deathless Vishanti are all pervasive. It's a situation David Sexton *[pictured above]* wants to change. At the same time, he wants to reinvent Marvel magic, bringing its trappings and functions more in line with the real world's 21st century concepts of magic.

Discussing his **Mystic Arcana** event with **CI**, the tarot card designer explained, "I pitched a different magic/tarot related story idea to senior vice president David Gabriel. He liked the pitch and put me in touch with editor Mark Paniccia. Mark had actually learned a little about tarot from his uncle who was a Jungian psy-chologist (Jung advocated the use of tarot in therapy), so he really responded to some of the ideas.

"As much as they liked the pitch, they both felt that what I had proposed was too ambitious, especially for my first Marvel project," Sexton revealed. "So, we started to talk about doing something on a smaller scale to introduce some of the concepts and to see what the reaction was from readers. We decided on a four-issue miniseries that kept a lot of stuff from the original proposal – like looking at ways the archetypes of the tarot sync up with the archetypes of Marvel and examining the fundamental structure of magic in the Marvel Universe. And the four issues naturally connected to the four classic elements, which are symbolised by the Minor Arcana suits of Swords, Discs/Pentacles, Cups and Wands."

Myths and comicbooks

Explaining that **Mystic Arcana** combines myths and comicbooks – two things that have always completely fascinated Sexton – the writer continued, "The first things I remember reading were comicbooks, but the first 'real' books I remember loving were two on mythology: **D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths** and **D'Aulaires' Book of Norse Myths**. Actually (on an 'intersection of myth and comics' tangent) one of the first comics I remember reading was DC's **Beowulf** #3. I only had issue #3. I think the series only lasted to issue #4, but it made an impression on me.

"When I was in college I got very into Joseph Campbell and Jung," he continued. "Their writings introduced me to the idea of the 'archetype' and I realised that myths and comics are really just manifestations of archetypes… as is the tarot, which I also became fascinated with while I was in college. I've been lucky enough to have had some of my work in the world of tarot published (***The Tarot of Oz*** from Llewellyn Worldwide and ***The Winged Spirit Tarot*** from US Games Systems) and this is an opportunity for me to bring some of what I learned about tarot and magic into my work for Marvel."

Mystic Arcana consists of four sequential one-shots, each focusing on a different Marvel character with sorcerous connections.

While Sexton is dictating the overall direction, four writers have each scripted one of the $2.99 40-pagers, which are being illustrated by different artists:

#1: **Magik** – by Louise Simonson (writer) and Steve Scott (artist); available now

#2: **Black Knight** – Roy Thomas and Tom Grummett; available now

#3: **Scarlet Witch** – Jeff Parker and Juan Roman Cano Santacruz; ships August 15

#4: **Sister Grimm** – C.B. Cebulski and Phil Noto; ships September 26

Each comic is also to include a 10-page backup illustrated by Eric Nguyen. These star Ian McNee. One of Marvel's more obscure mystics, his one and only previous appearance was as a teenage challenger for Doctor Strange's crown as Master of the Mystic Arts. Created by Roger Stern and and artist Charles Vess, he was introduced in 1983's **Marvel Fanfare** #6.

Written by Sexton, the backups follow the now 20-something McNee on his quest to retrieve four mystical implements. According to the writer,while the main stories take place in different eras, the backups are set in the present – "approximately six months ADCA [after the death of Captain America]. Roughly a decade has passed since McNee confronted Strange."

Delving further into the basics of the event, Sexton explained, "'Arcana' is the plural of 'arcanum,' which means a secret or a mystery, so **Mystic Arcana** refers to magical mysteries… or mystical secrets. Ian is trying to understand how magic works and how it is structured.

"He is trying to uncover Marvel's Arcana," he revealed. "As part of his quest for understanding he is looking for four hidden magic items known as the Cornerstones of Creation. The Cornerstones are antediluvian artifacts referenced in **Conan the Barbarian** #128 [1981]: a sword, a crown, a rose and a mirror.

"I have connected the items to the Elder Gods of the Marvel Universe and to specific items in the Marvel Universe," added Sexton, whose previous comicbook credits consist of three collaborations with artist P Craig Russell: *Satan and the Savior* for Kitchen Sink's **Taboo** #8 [1995] and two stories in **Gay Comics**.

"The structure of the Marvel Universe is based on the number four and the four elements," he added. "If you look closely, it is everywhere… from the Fantastic Four to Eternity, Infinity, Entropy and Death. I want to reveal some of that fourfold structure as it applies to Marvel magic. Finally, the title is a play on the tarot's Major Arcana and Minor Arcana."

Via **Annihilation**, Marvel recently rebooted Silver Surfer,Nova and its other cosmic characters. Sexton is hoping to achieve similar results not only with the various heroes with a mystical foundation but also with Marvel magic in general. "The series will set up or uncover some ancient animosities. 'The Forces', both dark and light, had grown complacent, even disinterested in playing a game that inevitably ended in a tie. Now something has

*Left: Marko Djurdjevic's art for the cover to the 64-page **Marvel Magic Handbook**. A primer for the **Mystic Arcana** event, the $3.99 one-shot is available now.*

continued from previous page

changed. Energy and Magic are being redefined. Nothing is certain the way it used to be. Ground can be gained... and lost! So characters are considering options and choosing sides, doing whatever is necessary or going wherever is needed to secure their place in the new mystical hierarchy.

"But," he continued, "what I am really hoping the series can do is to start rebuilding or redefining the structure of Marvel magic, because I feel.. I think some important details have been lost or forgotten over the years.

"Not so long ago, there was a magic-based miniseries (which I won't name) that climaxed in a battle between a good wizard and an evil wizard. After the evil wizard had head-butted the good wizard, it cast a spell on some innocent bystanders by pointing its evil wizard finger at them and uttering that most famous of magical phrases, 'Bang!' Reading that sequence kind of crystallised some of the things I had been thinking about regarding magic in comics.

"Magic is *not* a gun," Sexton exclaimed, warming to his subject. "It should look and feel different from technology or from a mutant power. "Magic should be depicted in an imaginative manner.

"During the early '60s," he continued, "Stan Lee and Steve Ditko established a magic system for Marvel. The first Doctor Strange stories in **Strange Tales** featured a completely fabricated mythology of mystic pseudo-deities with crazy names like Valtorr and Agamotto, but they were grounded in authentic aspects of ritual magick and Wicca, like invocation and incantation. Magic didn't just shoot out of a pointed finger. If a sorcerer wanted power from a Watoomb-type entity, then they'd better beg correctly and the correct method for begging was usually metred and rhymed.

"This 'Proclamation of Poetic Incantation' applied to Doctor Strange and to everyone else, from the Ancient One to Umar," he explained. "Small-scale magic could be achieved with the appropriate gesture (which was still visually distinct and memorable), but if you hoped to impress in the 'Big Time,' it was best to express with the 'Big Rhyme.' Now... not so much. The rules have gotten rather mushy, but 'The Magic Gun Syndrome' can be stopped. If a character or a creature manipulates magic in a new and different way, fantastic, but the reader needs to understand how. The magic has to make sense. Not rational sense, but it should have what Jung referred to as 'Mythopoeic' meaning."

Sexton is not only thoroughly versed in the nature of real world "magic"but has obviously put a great deal of time, research and thought into the concept of Marvel magic. Explaining further, he continued, "Nico from **Runaways** is a perfect example. Her magic weapon, The Staff of One is activated by succinct and constantly changing incantations, so Nico's creativity is challenged and she can only summon the Staff by sacrificing blood. *Now* interestingly the tarot's Minor Arcana suit of Wands or *Staves* represent *Fire* and deals with creative energy. Fire and Sacrifice are closely linked in mythic stories; as are Fire and Blood (especially as it pertains to passion, ie 'his blood burned'). So, either consciously or unconsciously Brian K Vaughan has created a new myth that resonates beautifully with the old myths.

By way of further example, he added, "Also, in a recent **Daredevil** story arc, Joe Quesada created a magic-based group called The Santerians. As I was reading the stories, I kept thinking how rich and authentic the magical details were. I could tell that Mr Quesada had done lots of research into the Santerian belief system. Afterwards I learned that the characters and Santeria were personally tied to his Latin American heritage and that he felt passionately about this project. On some level, I felt that, just by reading the stories.

"Magic only exists in our shared imaginations, so a writer needs to provide that kind of convincing detail in order for the reader to 'believe' in what they're reading," Sexton stated.

Asked how he came to select Magik, the Black Knight, the Scarlet Witch and Sister Grimm as the foci of his **Mystic Arcana** event and what about these four characters made them particularly suitable to his overall plan, he responded, "We wanted characters that resonated with the tarot and elemental themes in the stories. Can you imagine a more perfect fit for the Suit of Swords than Illyana Rasputin and her Soulsword? Swords also represent logic and the mind. And I always saw Illyana as this very simple logical Russian girl who was put into insane, surreal circumstances. When the world went all mad and magic, she would not be broken. She turned magic into a *sword!* A symbol completely lacking in creativity or style, but cold and plenty clear.

"Then," he continued, "we have the Black Knight, who in one incarnation or another has guarded the 'Round Table' for centuries. That kind of dependable selfless soldier is definitely part of the Earth/Pentacles/Discs Suit. Wanda, the Scarlet Witch, is now, more than ever, this elemental force of emotion. She was perfect for Cups/Water/Emotions. And last but not least hot-headed sorceress Sister Grimm with her Staff of One was a great fit for Fire/Wands."

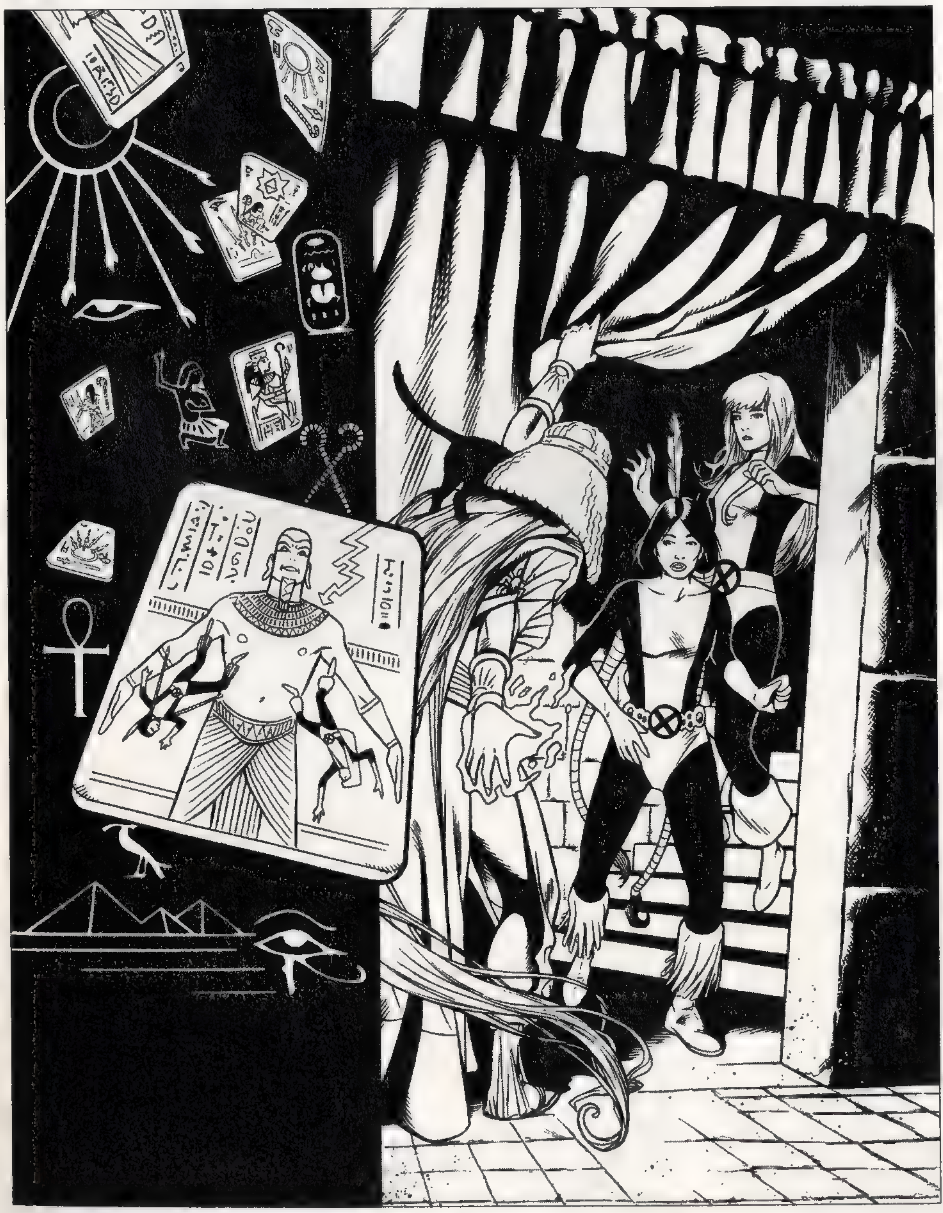
Self-obsessed smart ass

When it was suggested that McNee was the "bad guy" of the story, Sexton was quick to refute the idea. "Ian McNee is definitely *not* the villain here. Ian first appeared as a teenaged magical prodigy created by Roger Stern and Charles Vess (good pedigree) in **Marvel Fanfare** [#6], where he challenged Doctor Strange for the title of Sorcerer Supreme.

"Naturally Mr McNee suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of Doctor Strange, but I always thought, how cool, what hubris! The character and the story have always stayed with me. Ian is older now, well into his 20s. Ancient. And he has a vision that starts him on a quest to retrieve the four Cornerstones of Creation, which we have already discussed a little," added Sexton, who co-wrote Marvel's just-released **Spider-Man Fairy Tales** one-shot with C.B. Cebulski.

"Ian is talented, self-assured and smart. He can also be cocky, self-obsessed and a smart ass. He has learned a lot about magic and about himself since his last appearance, but he is still immature in some ways. He has issues with authority and is not likely to accept a thing as true just because someone tells him that's the way it is," the writer revealed.

Given that the lead stories occur at different times throughout Marvel history, it is easy to consider them continuity implants. Addressing the point, Sexton said, "As I worked on the plots, I decided to set the stories in times and places that were important for magic in the Marvel Universe, so the reader gets a bit of a mystical historical overview. Ian pretty much follows the path of locations that are set up in the main stories. Starting in Ancient Egypt, a Golden Age for Marvel magic with the original Magik (Illyana Rasputin) Then on to the Age of Wizards that was Camelot. Ian actually does not visit Romania, but there is a *lot* of Marvel magic history that is focused on the Gypsies of Eastern Europe. So the third story focuses on them with the Ian backup touching on Atlantis and the first Great Age of Marvel magic. The last story is set in modern-day Marvel and focuses on Sister Grimm, who represents the next generation of Marvel Mystics. The torch (or staff) of Marvel magic has been passed on to her."



*Above: Interior art from the lead story in the 40-page Mystic Arcana #1: Magik #1; pencil art by London Night's **Razor Uncut** illustrator Steve Scott, a regular Marvel and DC fill-in artist. The $2.99 Marvel one-shot is available now.*

Until **Mystic Arcana**, it would be unthinkable that a Marvel magic event would occur without the involvement of Doctor Strange. Sexton, however, doesn't think the Sorceror Supreme's participation is an absolute necessity. In fact he suggests that keeping the Master of the Mystic Arts out of the picture would make for a better story. "First off I want to say that I am a *huge* Doctor Strange fan. I have read every issue... even the (in my opinion) tragically misguided *War of the Seven Spheres* [which began in 1992's **Doctor Strange Sorcerer Supreme** #48] and Salome [introduced in **Marvel Comics Presents** #146; 1994] stuff. I hope someday to write a Doctor Strange story for Marvel. This wasn't that story.

"This," he explained, "is a story about an apprentice trying to understand how things work. I think stories about magic are most interesting when the protagonist is *learning* the rules. Whether we are dealing with Harry Potter or Tim Hunter or Stephen Strange, the stories just seem more compelling when the reader and the wizard are learning *together*. Doctor Strange is *the man*. He *knows* how things work. He is over 5, 000 years old and he has personally met most of the entities that Ian has only recently learned to summon."

Ritual of the Sphinx

"Also, I loved **Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell** by Susanna Clarke. I loved the interplay between the two title characters and I started to think it might be interesting if there was another voice in the Marvel Universe with ideas about magic. Right now Strange is *it*," stated the writer. "That kind of monopoly doesn't exist on the science fiction side of Marvel. You need expert scientific opinion? You could go to Reed Richards or Tony Stark or Hank McCoy or Professor Xavier or Henry Pym or... well, you get the idea. You want a magic expert? There is only one place to go and it has created this Marvel cliché of the Doctor Strange guest appearance. It's a formula that wants to be shaken up. Maybe Ian can do that."

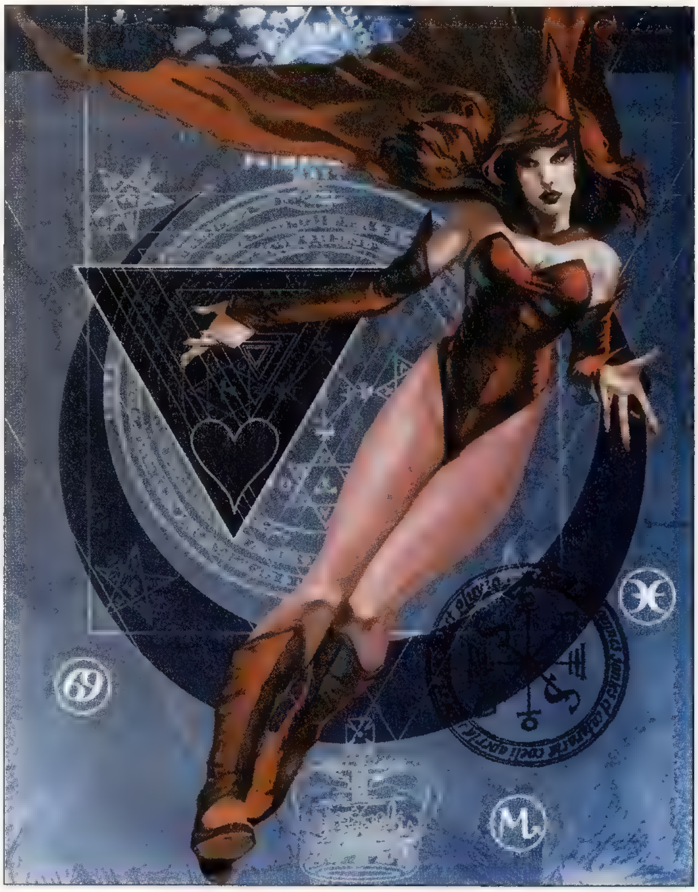
Moving on to the main theme of the series, Sexton said, "As I mentioned earlier, **Mystic Arcana** is a story about an apprentice trying to understand how things work. That is true for the Ian backup *and* for the lead-in stories. The main stories are not epic in scope; they are intimate. They are stories about that particular protagonist's struggle to understand the structure of the world they inhabit and the way that they fit into that structure.

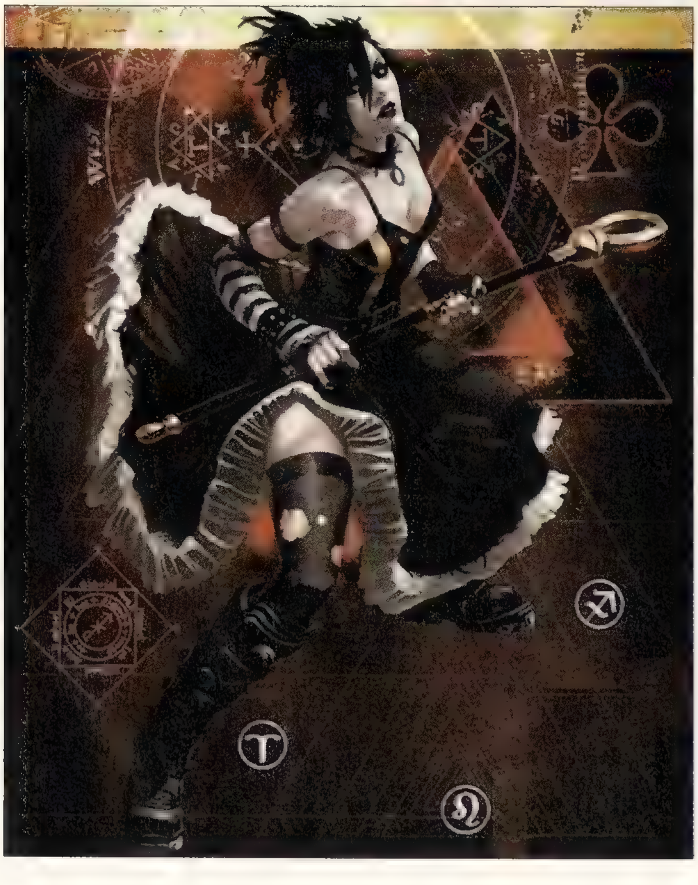
"As I was doing some research on Egyptian magic, I came across a ritual that marked the passage of an apprentice magician into the deeper levels of the occult," he revealed. "It's called The Ritual of the Sphinx and it resonated with several of the themes of **Mystic Arcana**. The ritual challenges the neophytes, 'To know! To dare! To Will! To Keep Silent!' The first issue of **Mystic Arcana** is subtitled **Air** and in the tarot's Minor Arcana Air/Swords represent the mind and the Intellect, so I had already decided that Ian would face a cerebral challenge from a Sphinx-like creature in the form of a riddle game.

"I thought it was cool that my first story corresponded with the Ritual of the Sphinx, so I let it inspire some of Ian's other obstacles," the writer added.

According to Sexton, the lead features are more traditional Marvel action stories. "I think that allows the back-up stories to be a little more philosophical.

"I am hoping to attract some of the people who bought my tarot decks to this series. To this end Marvel and Llewellyn are working together to create some connections. Since my background is in tarot and some of the writers were not so familiar with it, I created a basic guide that focused on the Minor Arcana suits and their meanings," he revealed. "When Marco Djurdjevic started to work on the covers, he asked for information about symbols that represented the four elements, so I expanded the guide to include symbols of the elements and seals to protect against various elemental beings. There are plans in place to post these lists of 'correspondences' (which is what symbolic relationships are called in Wicca and ritual magick) online."





This page: Marko Djurdjevic's cover art for the $2.99 ***Mystic Arcana** #3 and 4 – **Scarlet Witch*** [above] *and **Sister Grimm*** [below]. *The $40-page Marvel one-shots ship on August 15 and September 26, respectively.*

Not wanting to dismiss everything that had gone before, Sexton immersed himself in the history of Marvel magic. "I wanted to use the mythology that was already present in the Marvel Universe. I did not want to tack something on to what already existed. This meant doing a *lot* of research, which I loved, but which was very time-consuming.

"So," he continued, "after I did the research I had all of this information and all these hypotheses that I wanted to share, but that can get really boring really fast. People aren't buying a comicbook to get a dissertation on the *The Structure and Function of Myth and Magick in the Marvel Universe*," he proclaimed, drily.

"Luckily, as supplements to **Mystic Arcana** I worked up two other books for Marvel. The first is **The Official Handbook of the Marvel Universe: Magic**," he explained. "I worked with Jeff Christiansen and his crew on the book. Those guys do such a great job on the **Handbooks** and this one follows in the fine tradition with a special emphasis on magic. It provides info on several characters and items that will play a part in the **Mystic Arcana** series including Ian McNee, Modred the Mystic, Ashake and many others. It came out in May. "

Marvel Tarot

"The second book is like a handbook, but I am really trying to make it unique. It came out in July and it is entitled **The Marvel Tarot – Magical Theories from the Files of Ian McNee**," Sexton stated. "Obviously, it is written from Ian's perspective. The idea behind the book is this... in **Mystic Arcana** #1: **Air** readers are introduced to a very special deck of tarot cards. The cards are magically connected with the world around them and they magically transform to represent the 'real person' (ie Marvel character) that most embodies that particular card. For example, if you drew the Major Arcana card of The Priest; the 'priest' depicted there would look like Brother Voodoo because Brother Voodoo is the individual who, at this moment in time, most embodies the archetype of The Priest. Now, if Brother Voodoo were to die or to abandon his beliefs, then The First Tarot (as this magic deck is called) would alter itself and depict a different person as The Priest. For the most part the individuals that appear on the cards are never aware of their connection to the deck or that the deck even exists.

"Ian has been in possession of this special tarot for some time," he revealed. "He has studied it and has learned a great deal from it, but now the deck appears to be 'broken'. The card depictions are in a constant state of flux. If you were to draw The Devil three times in a day the card might show you three different Devils or the face on The Queen of Wands might morph into another face right before your eyes and then morph back.

"So Ian is noting the irregularities in his 'files' and the notes are inspiring thoughts and theories regarding magic," Sextonconcluded.

Rich Johnston's LYING IN THE GUTTER

The mild-mannered creator of the Internet's original comics industry rumour and news column has outraged many a publisher and survived more than one change of website. Despite several attempts to stop it, the Squiddy Award-winning gutterpress site continues to thrive, with over 20,000 hits a week at its home of www.comicbookresources.com

From his unique vantage point, Rich often scoops the industry newshounds with his stories. Here are the highlights from this month's Gutter...

FALLEN SON, RISING INTEREST

I UNDERSTAND that the **Iron Man: Fallen Son** funeral issue will receive a considerable degree of US media coverage. We're not quite talking **Captain America #25**, but we're certainly talking "Gay Batwoman". I should make a DEFCON-style chart for this. I really should.

BRITPUB

Eagle Award winners Jamie McKelvie and Kieron Gillen celebrated the launch of the **Phonogram** trade paperback in a Fitzrovia pub recently.

While Kieron had a few comp copies on hand to sign and sell, Jamie was lacking. Turns out that, accidentally, Image sent his comps to an old address. Where the tenant had signed for the books using Jamie's name and now has no intention of giving them to Jamie. I understand the police are involved.

If you see a job lot of **Phonogram** trades on eBay, you know who to contact.

LOVING PUNISHMENT

From the solicitation to **Punisher** #51. "It's the grudge match of the century. In this corner, the 6'4", 220lb force of nature known as the Punisher... And in this corner, the 6'6", 300lb engine of destruction known as Barracuda... The prize? A 7lb 10oz bundle of joy."

Whose bundle of joy? I understand the Punisher is a daddy again. Kevlar diapers?

THE DAN AND JANN SHOW

Of late, there has been some, possibly mindless, speculation from DC people and those with DC connections, that Dan DiDio, senior vice president - executive editor, DC Universe will depart from DC shortly.

The gossip tide was firstly that DiDio is meant to be blamed for an under-performing *One Year Later* and there has been some, quite expected, criticism of his heavy-handed approach to the creative nuts and bolts. Secondly, that DiDio's nickname has, reportedly, changed from "Shooter" to "Jemas". And thirdly that the **Countdown** series had been passed to Mike Carlin to oversee, an experienced industry man who many thought had seen his time pass at DC in favour of DiDio's approach.

However, I mention it now because the gossip tide seems to have turned, with something behind it. Not only has Dan re-upped his DC contract, but the promotion of Jann Jones to contributing editor has yielded results. Described by some as basically running the DCU, her title belies her extensive role in idea creation, management and hiring and the results of their work on the DCU are starting to show. "The Dan and Jann Show" is the way it's been described to me and certainly a force to be reckoned with.

But could Mark Waid be a new factor? We've know he's writing **Flash**, but I hear he may be talking to DC about a more extensive editorial director/writer position, possibly something akin to what he once had at Marvel Comics.

It certainly makes for interesting times.

FOR CORNELL (SAY IT QUICKLY)

I understand that **Wisdom** author (you know, **Wisdom**, the best current Marvel book that nobody bought?), Hugo nominee for *Doctor Who* (and writer of the tip top 'Human Nature' episode

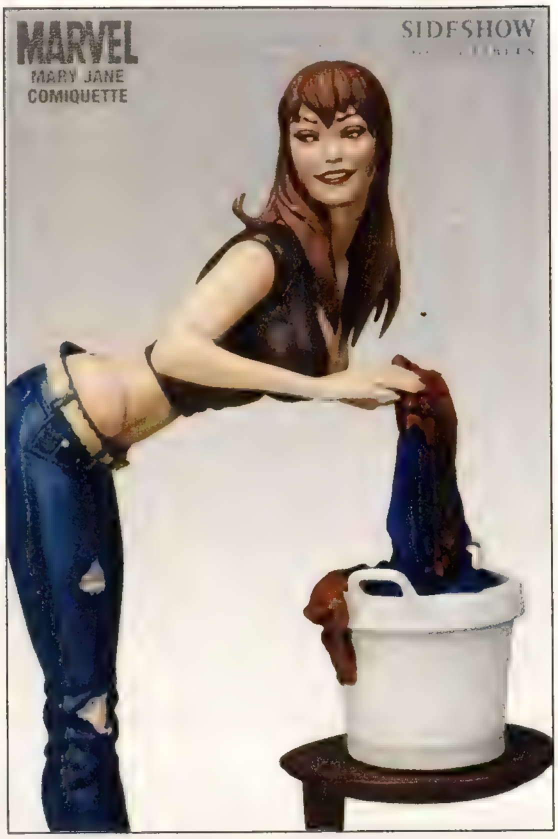
NetWorks

Online mumblings, rumblings and grumblings

Compiled by Graeme McMillan

You could tell, during the month of May, that it was getting near summer. The sun was beginning to shine, the big comicbook companies were gearing up for their big line-wide crossovers, and that collection of tubes and wires called the Internet couldn't stop itself thinking about sex.

Yes, that's right. Follow me and I'll explain...



Sex 1: Mary Jane

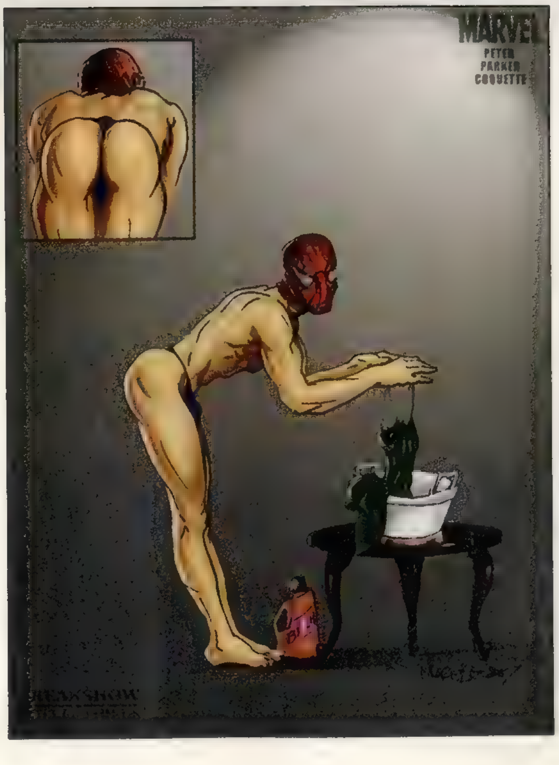
Somewhat lost in all of the hype for *Spider-Man 3*, Sideshow's statue of Peter Parker's girlfriend Mary Jane, based on the artwork of (no-stranger to cheesecake artist) Adam Hughes, was initially greeted by comments along the lines of "WOW!!! Hot stuff!! Pink G-String!!!" and "Perhaps the exclusive version could be topless." (Both, sadly, real comments from fans in March, on Sideshow's own site). And then the rest of the comics blogosphere noticed.

Livejournal user Devil Doll was the one who started the ball rolling at tinyurl.com/yulrol: "I'm so happy for Mary Jane. She isn't just the damsel in distress. She gets to wash Parker's Spidey costume with both her tits *and* her thong showing! You've come a long way, baby!"

More than 200 different blog posts of outrage later – Lisa Fortuner and Melissa Krause's ***When Fangirls Attack*** blog lost count after tracking the story for more than a week, but tinyurl.com/yq6po8 is a good starting point for linkage – something unusual happened: the mainstream media picked up the story. With reports of varying quality from sites like ***Boing Boing*** to ***Entertainment Weekly*** to ***MSNBC*** (where their expert guest was Feedback, winner of guilty pleasure TV show *Who Wants To Be A Superhero?*), who couldn't be excited at seeing the best face of their favourite hobby being put forward in writing like this, from Fox News?: "Spider-Man is one lucky guy. His girlfriend Mary Jane does his laundry, has a lot of cleavage and wears a cute little pink thong that sticks out of her jeans. At least that's the image one comicbook illustrator portrays in a new collectable statue that has the comic blogosphere up in arms."

(Yes, Fox News knows about the comic blogosphere. I don't know if that's a good thing or a bad thing, but you could read the rest of the story here: tinyurl.com/27svh5.)

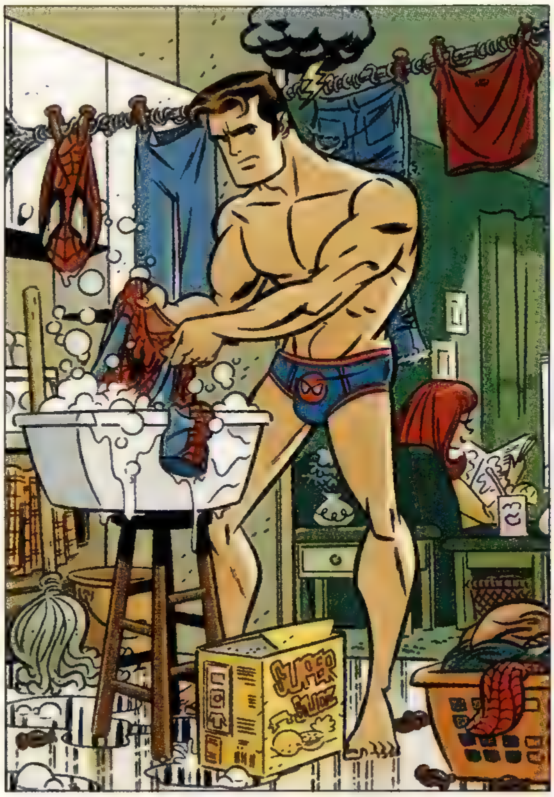
Newsarama, the nexus of all Internet comics news, went straight to the source for a reaction, and asked Adam Hughes what the hell he was thinking at tinyurl.com/2x6cug: "My idea was pretty simple, I



thought – classic Mary Jane, from the days when Peter and MJ were boyfriend and girlfriend, and she's found his Spider-Man costume in the laundry basket. It's the weird little secret that couples have from each other that gets discovered. For me, the gag was that this was the moment when Mary Jane found out that her boyfriend is Spider-Man... I just feel that we're getting into dangerous territory. We're a country that loves to be offended, litigate and sue people. I've had people who've had their complaints about my work before, and that's fine – please don't buy it if it bothers you."

Alternatively, of course, you could take a leaf out of Nancy Lorenz's and J Bone's books... Both artists produced their own rebuttals to the image. Based around the same idea, they can be seen in greater detail at tinyurl.com/2xb9t7 and tinyurl.com/23edvr respectively.

The cynical among us would probably point to the fact that the the statue sold out and mumble something about people failing to put their money where their outraged mouths are, but considering what else lay in store, perhaps the shocked and stunned were just conserving energy for what came next...



Pictured clockwise from the left: Sideshow's Mary Jane statue, which caused a furore on the 'Net and J Bone and Nancy Lorenz's artistic rebuttals to the offending artifact.

Sex 2: Tentacle rape

"... seriously: whoah. Marvel's putting tentacle rape on its covers. They're not even allowed to *smoke* in Marvel comics but you can have tentacle rape on the cover? Then again, no one ever got second-hand tentacle rape... I'd love to interview the editor of this book and ask him: 'When you heard about bloggers complaining about Mary Jane doing laundry, were you laughing your ass off, knowing you had tentacle rape a'comin'?'"

That was Abhay Khosla, comic critic and online personality (sorry, Abhay, but it's true), writing in stunned amazement at tinyurl.com/2dr8qe after seeing the cover for Marvel's **Heroes For Hire** #13. Maybe you missed the cover *[see overleaf]*, but it kind of looks like... Well, it kind of looks like tentacle porn.

Less than two weeks after Mary Jane's porcelain breasts, Marvel managed to piss off fans all over again by showing the stars of its highest profile female-led book chained up, surrounded by phallic symbols that they seem to be afraid of, and with – how shall I put this? – 'goo' on their breasts. Lea Hernandez? Why don't you let us read your open letter to Joe Quesada about the subject (available at tinyurl.com/26a8am)...

"Obviously you don't give a micron of a shit about women buying your comics, but are you trying to spoil them for everyone? Marvel's raised the

COMICS WEBWORLD

Maybe it's some kind of random happenstance, but the newest thing in webcomics is an attempt to try to recreate the feeling you get of going to pick up your print comics in your average print comics store. You know, the nausea, the discomfort, the...

THE RACK

www.agreeablecomics.com/therack/

Kevin Church – blogger-turned-comic writer (he's working on **Cover Girl** for Boom! Studios as we speak) – and Benjamin Birdie spend time three times a week bringing you a strip midway between comedy, drama and Aaron Sorkin-worship. As something resembling an added bonus, each Wednesday, the characters will tell you which three comics you should be buying that week! Where else would you be able to have entirely fictious characters tell you how to spend your money?

NO PINK PONIES

www.nopinkponies.com

Another webcomic all about life in a comicbook store, Saiful Remy Mokhtar's focuses more on the interpersonal relationships between its cast, being more of a long-way-round romance than outright comedy, although Mokhtar ((better known as Eisu) does like pushing against the fourth wall every now and again for a laugh.

Rich Johnston's LYING IN THE GUTTER

continued from previous page...

that just aired and the 'Family of Blood' episode airing next week), *Robin Hood* writer (he of the "I shot the sheriff" "No, you shot the deputy" line) and newly appointed contributor to *Primeval*'s second series (the cliffhanger episode, which featured the kind of time travel logic that you wish *Doctor Who* would do and, on that topic when will New Who get around to adapting Steven Moffat's "Continuity Errors" anyway?) Paul Cornell (see, I knew we'd get here eventually, I wonder what the rumour is, it had better be good after this build-up, now where did I put my cheese?) is the new writer on Marvel Comics' **Excalibur**.

COUNTDOWN SYNDROME

I understand from one convention-goer that during the **Countdown Presents The Search For Ray Palmer**, the worlds visited include the Earths from *Elseworlds* classic series **Gotham by Gaslight**, **Red Son**, **Red Rain** and **Earth 2**.

SPAFF PAGE

Keep an eye on your DCU comics over the next few months. There's a new editorial guideline that requests that stories start with a splash page. Basically, instead of writers creating a few dense pages that build in intensity and pleasure, the request is that, like a young gentleman's first romantic encounter, they spaff all over the comic immediately. Look for more and more DCU books to step into line.

If they do, I do hope the title of this piece catches on.

EUROPOP

I understand that TokyoPop is actively looking for French/European comics to licence, as the competition for Asian manga is hotting up - and TokyoPop doesn't seem to be getting any new licenses. Mind you, many American OEL creators who feel their work is poorly (ie not at all) marketed by TokyoPop's marketing department aren't too pleased. Especially when it seems that the marketing department forgot to submit anything for the Eisners or the Harveys this year.

ONCE BYRNED

A while ago, John Byrne talked about an idea he'd had with Howard Mackie to "reset" Spider-Man continuity. First, they would have put Peter Parker through the worst of it, until he considers ending it all. At that point, he'd find himself on the bridge where Gwen Stacy died, offering his soul if the clock could have been turned back to simpler times. At which point the Shaper of Worlds does just that, remaking Spider-Man's world to when he was back in high school, but with the current book's supporting cast, taking place in the modern day. Eventually confronting the Shaper, he discovers nothing can be changed, and his memories of the old world slowly fade away. The team decided though that this kind of event would be too "cosmic" for Spider-Man, who has a "street level" tone.

Well, while Byrne may be out of favour at Marvel (or vice versa), his ideas may still see the light of day...

Y WITHOUT Y FRONTS

Issue #57 of **Y: The Last Man** has what Brian K Vaughan calls a "shocking amount of nudity." Artist Pia Guerra reported that the inker, Jose Marzan Jr, had to hide his pages from his mother.

This irked Jock slightly who has seen certain nudity on his and Mike Carey's upcoming series **Faker** castrated by Vertigo editorial.

Vertigo editor Shelly Bond pacified Jock saying that, "Nothing's over till it's over... We'll talk..." This column will be performing a genitalia count on your behalf for both comics on publication.

FINAL COUNTDOWN

So what is **Countdown** counting down to anyway? The name I'm given is **Final Crisis**.

SURFING THE BOARDS

Continuing our compartmentalised section devoted to soundbites from selected website forums and messageboards...

Miller's Holy Terror..

He may be the big comics man on the Hollywood campus, but that doesn't mean that comic fandom is getting that excited about Frank Miller's much-talked-about (by him, at least) **Holy Terror, Batman!** if *forums.millarworld.tv/index.php?showtopic=70912* is anything to go by:

Steve Sensible asked the question on many people's lips: "Is DC seriously going to publish his Batman vs Al Qaida nonsense? It's notoriously sensitive about publishing even creator-owned stuff that's controversial, let alone something that uses one of its most iconic characters and that the author admits is, 'bound to offend just about everybody.'"

Carlos Fraile has a more cynical reason as to why DC may be persuaded otherwise: "Batman + *300* and *Sin City* guy + controversial = trillions of $."

Sexist sensationalism?

Meanwhile, it's time for Marvel's guiding lights to get into fights on messageboards across the 'Net.

First, Ed Brubaker took on fans complaining about sexism in a press release for his latest issue of **Daredevil** over at *forum.newsarama.com/showthread.php?t=115723*. The release started: "Karen Page. Elektra. All the women Matt Murdock has loved have been violently taken from him, victims of unspeakable tragedies and in **Daredevil** #98, his wife Milla Donovan may be next!" Why would fans find that kind of sensationalism sexist?

Well, ask Newfoundma, who sarcastically announced "Fun! We can watch a man with buzz saw wrists torture a blind woman in her underwear!"

That didn't sit too well with Brubaker, however, who quickly appeared to reply: "There's nothing misogynistic or salacious in these pages. And anyone who thinks there is, a) hasn't read the comic, and b) is just trying to make this part of something else it has nothing to do with... I'd just prefer not to have my work lumped into a discussion about Mary Jane's ass, honestly. Our story isn't about that kind of thing, and I've never done that kind of thing in my work."

Bendis and the Skrull deletions

Much less likely to offer a considered response is Brian Michael Bendis, who reacted to fans complaining about the Skrull-esque plot twist of **New Avengers** #31 on his messageboard ("If you looked up 'lame' in the dictionary, you would probably find the definition of the word 'lame'. That's what this is!" and "This is one of the stupidest ideas I have ever heard. I'd prefer a Prime Punch or Mr Mind Munch to this!" being two comments summing up the feeling of the conversation) by deleting the thread.

Not that it was intentional, of course, as Bendis tried to explain at *http://www.606studios.com/bendisboard/showthread.php?t=116376*: "I accidently deleted the other one. I suck. It was rocking. 333 posts never to be heard from again. My advice – read the actual comic first. Form opinion afterwards. Think about why the book was hyped. Don't just have a tantrum."

What's that saying about never being too rude to your host at a party...?

bar on gross so high small planes will be flying under it... Seriously, Joe, Marvel got a lot of 'ha-ha feminists are stoopid the statue's already sold out' coverage from the mainstream and tabloid press, and the sad fanboyishness of that staue was deflected into contempt for feminist bloggers and female comics readers. But this week, Joe? Not to put too fine a point on it, you just blew your 'Well, it's not for you'. load."

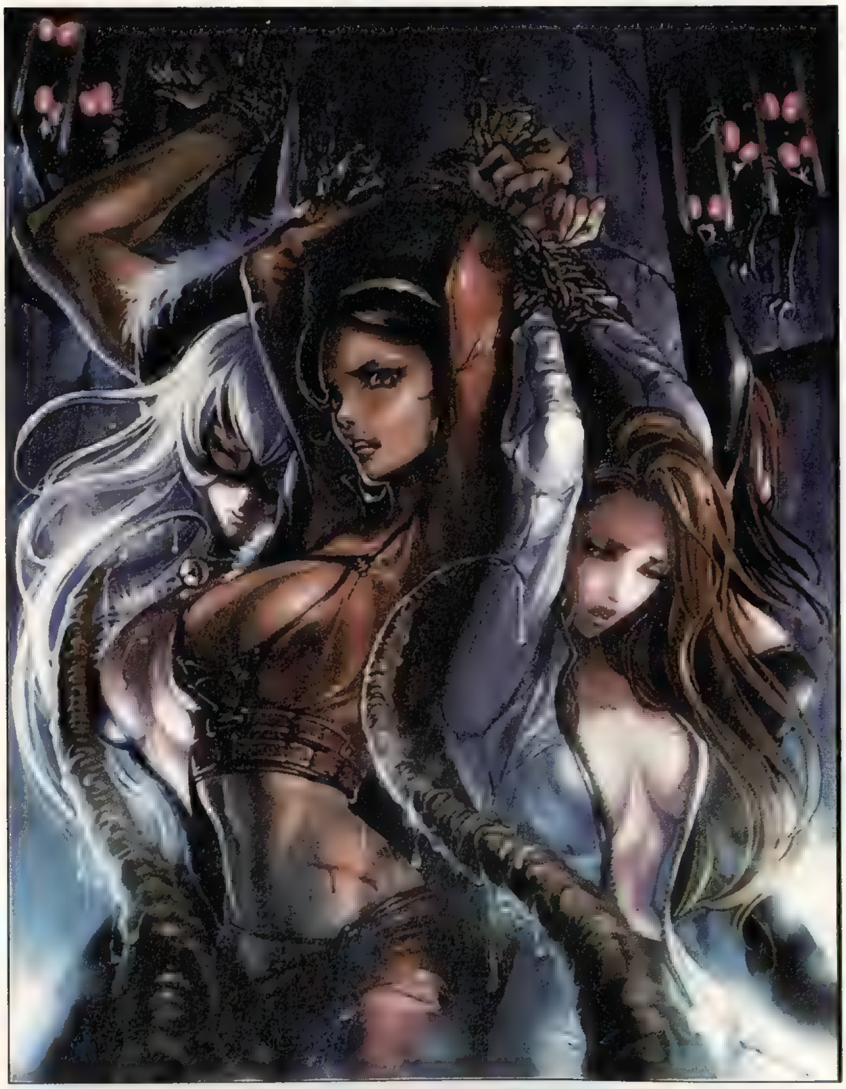
Maybe more tellingly, adult comic creator Erin Winkler also broached the subject at tinyurl.com/yr6stv: "Now, as we all know, I publish pornographic comics. Not just tease comics or pinup comics or sexy comics – hardcore pornography. Poles and holes, money shots, manga-style spurting penii, cartoon boobies bouncing, etc. I am not ashamed of the adult comics my company publishes. This is because I try to be a responsible editor and I believe there should be adult comics out there with consensual sex, women enjoying themselves and not being treated as mere objects, couples in love who can't keep their hands off each other, and the radical idea that sex, in all its forms, should be fun and pleasant and positive. This means it's often difficult to find artists who understand these concepts, and we often have to reject stuff with very nice art that contains things like rape, snuff, extreme violence, and the like.

"I looked at this cover for **Heroes For Hire** and realised that 1) it looks like it belongs on the cover of a porn comic, like **Milk** and 2) it's a cover I wouldn't even run on **Milk**, because the women are all obviously in an abused position... And yeah, that appears to be jizz on the Black Cat's boobs on that cover. The cover aimed at 12-year olds. Nicely done, Marvel. We're not allowed to show jizz or genitals on the covers of our porn comics, according to Diamond, but Marvel can put a money shot on the cover of a superhero book? Excuse me?!"

Journalist and survivor of the Big Two Heidi MacDonald had a more realist, and more jaded, take (tinyurl.com/2xkdpu): "I don't know what went into that cover. I know the editor is Mark Paniccia, the father of a one-year old daughter that he loves more than anything. I know Mark well enough to hazard the guess that he wasn't trying to 'oppress' women, 'oppress' Misty Knight, or follow a secret agenda. He was probably just trying to sell more books. I imagine [artist behind the cover] Sana Takeda wanted to sell more books. The really really sad thing is that inside the Biosphere, up on the mountain, probably nobody gave this a second thought. Nobody thought that 'Misty Knight and the Black Cat and Colleen Wing shouldn't be shown this way because it demeans them as characters'.

"And you know what's even sadder? That no one at Marvel or DC will ever say a word about any of this. The Mary Jane statue controversy had been going on for well over a week, and been on TV shows, with nary a peep out of an official spokesman at either company. Will anyone ask Joe Quesada or Paul Levitz about any of this? Will anyone remember?"

Well, someone asked Joe Quesada – ***Newsarama***'s Matt Brady, to be exact. During his weekly *Joe Fridays* column at tinyurl.com/2dpekg, Joey Da



*Above: Sana Takeda's controversial **Heroes for Hire** #13 cover art.*

Q had the following to not say: "First, I think people are reading way too much into that cover than was ever intended. I heard terms such as 'tentacle rape' being thrown around when that in no way is what's happening, nor does it happen in the book. Those tentacles are the arms of the Brood who appears in the issue and is a major story point, the Brood have tentacles, sorry about that.

"Secondly, the concept for that cover, soup to nuts, came from a female artist. Thirdly, not being a deep follower of manga, I have no idea what recurring theme people are referring to or concerned with. While I appreciate the sentiment and the feelings that some may have, I honestly feel that there is way too much being read into this cover."

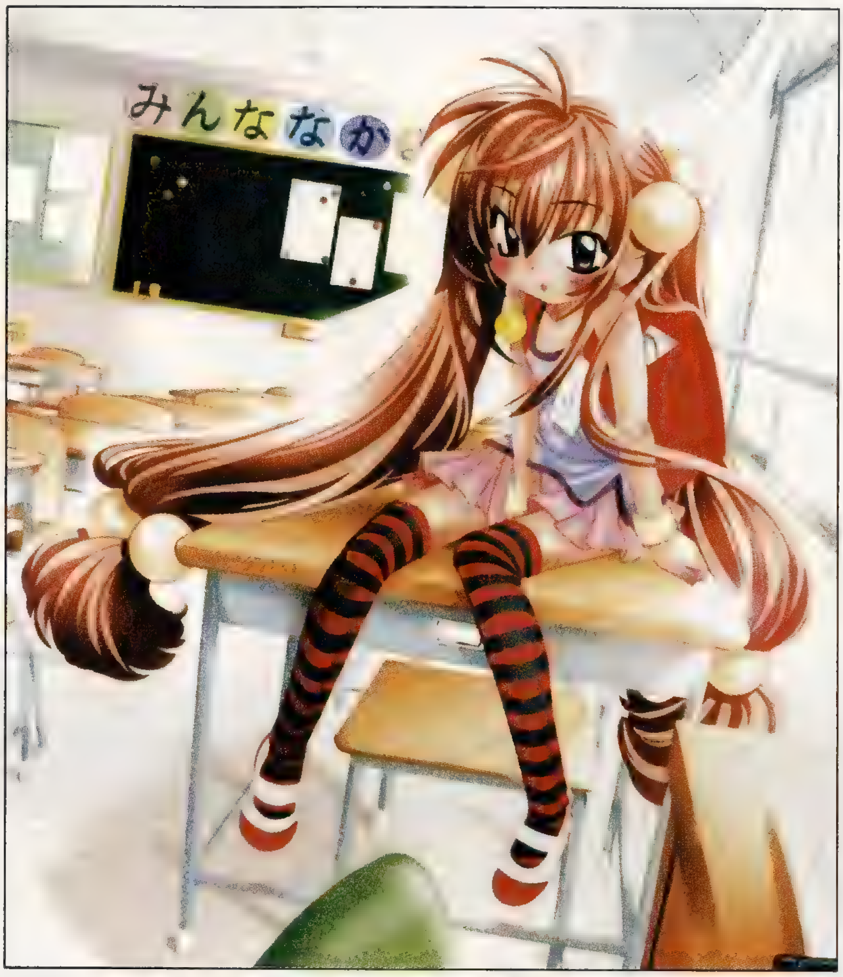
For those keeping score, that's two outrages, and two "I don't know what they're talking about!"s in response. Who said that this isn't the age of Mighty Marvel Facetiousness, True Believer?

Sex 3: Nymphet

It's not just Marvel which is falling foul of the Internet purita – no, wait, I mean "people who have sense" – though. Seven Seas Entertainment, an American manga publisher, had announced plans to publish a series called **Nymphet**, which was about – and I swear I'm not making this up – an eight-year old girl who was trying to seduce her adult school teacher into having sex with her. Somewhat unsurprisingly, more than a few people were kind of uncertain about why the hell anyone would try and publish a book on that subject in the first place, especially in a world where a drawing of a naked Picasso lands comicbook retailers in court for obscenity.

Thankfully, Seven Seas publisher Jason DeAngelis wanted to do something about this idea that such a book would seem dodgy or kid-porny, and so he announced a publication delay while he tried to work out why critics were wrong (tinyurl.com/22gdts): "Most people have not yet read **Nymphet**, since we haven't even published it yet, so I would like to clarify an important point: **Nymphet** is a story about a mischievous young girl who tries to sexually entrap her teacher. The important context here is that the girl's advances on her teacher are never reciprocated by him; her teacher is horrified by her actions, and his romantic interest is in fact another adult teacher. The comedy arises out of this young girl saying and doing improper things (much like *Crayon Shin-chan*, which is currently being aired on Cartoon Network) and seeing her teacher squirm with discomfort and shock while he struggles to keep his composure, at the same time trying not to make a fool of himself in front of the woman he loves... Based on the angry debates that I have seen online, however, there are people who do not appreciate this sort of material, and while it may be appropriate in Japan, they feel that it is inappropriate for our culture.

"Although I do not agree with that point of view, I realise that this issue must be addressed, instead of ignored. As a policy, we at Seven Seas do not believe in altering or 'censoring' manga artwork or content, so that approach, which has been taken in the past by others, is out of the question. Instead, despite the fact that we have already received thousands of orders on this title, I have decided to delay its release and to have an open dialogue with the large book chains and other vendors. My intention is to make them fully aware of this debate, familiarise them more fully with the content, and let each of them make the final decision as to whether or not it is appropriate for their stores and their customers – and then give them the chance to cancel their orders if they wish. In the meantime, I would like to continue the dialogue with fans or others who are seriously concerned about this issue, and will be keeping my eyes and ears open to the discussion."



As you might be able to guess, the fan response was... Well, take a look at tinyurl.com/yv7zxy: "Thanks, everyone! You ruined it for us all! Give yourself a pat on the back, you Nazis!"

"I fail to understand why such a huge deal is being made about this release. It's not like the US hasn't seen manga full of underage pseudo-sexual hijinks before."

"What the Christ is this faggotry? I don't even like the series and I was planning on buying multiple copies just to support a relatively untouched genre of manga here in the States in hopes that Seven Seas and other manga publishers would pick up more moe and loli fanservice (*not porn*) material... I hate all of you."

That unnamed fan got the chance to hate people just that little bit more when, days later, DeAngelis announced that he was actually going to cancel the book altogether. The reason, you ask? Well, because he'd finally gotten around to reading the thing (tinyurl.com/yorx42): "It was not until these past few days, actually, that I personally took the time to delve more closely into the rest of the series and the specific content of the subsequent volumes. Sure, I'd flipped through them before, and what I saw on a cursory glance seemed harmless enough. But this time I sat down and read the series carefully in Japanese, and what I found in volumes two and three was very disturbing. (Particularly, pages 129-131 in volume three, which are highly problematic.) So much so, that I now have to retract some of what I said in my first letter where I tried to defend the content, because certain scenes in the subsequent volumes are indefensible and inappropriate, in my opinion... So, my primary reason for cancelling **Nymphet** is due to my recent realisation that later volumes in the series can not be considered appropriate for the US market by any reasonable standard. For those who have been defending the title and have expressed anger about its cancellation, as a fan, I understand your frustration. But, at this point, I can only assume that you have not seen certain segments from later in the series, just as I hadn't, which very clearly cross the line, and which I can no longer stand by or support in good conscience."

This time, the fan reaction was much more sedate. No, only joking, as tinyurl.com/33vr4u goes to show: "Well, it looks like Seven Seas isn't half the company I had thought they were. I am about to get mean about this. Here goes. DeAngelis, you're a pussy. You're a punk bitch pussy who can't stand up for any sort of freedom."

But, wait, there was a happy ending; DeAngelis started a blog (tinyurl.com/24bvwa) to take advantage of all the free publicity. I mean, to try and communicate better with his audience: "I learned many things from the whole **Nymphet** flare-up, and one of them was about the importance of transparency. What was truly educational for me was the overall positive response I got after posting my two letters. Even if not everyone fully agreed with my reasoning, their responses were, for the most part, appreciative (that I had taken the time to carefully explain myself) and respectful. (Sure, there are still those who want to burn my effigy and boil me alive...)

"I realised that, more than anything – besides the books themselves – manga fans want open and honest communication from publishers. No marketing speak or corporate B.S., but a personal touch. My goal here is to provide an inside look at the manga industry, as someone who is directly involved in all aspects of manga publishing. It's an industry that is at once fascinating, colorful, exotic, but also, on my end of things, cut-throat. There are things that ought to be demystified, and some that only I can tell you. My hope is to inform in my own small way, to entertain, and to show you who I am and what it's like to be a growing manga publisher in an uphill battle against nigh-impossible odds."

Some people already know who you are, Jason. You're a... Oh, you know.

So, to sum up: Publisher announces book about potential paedophilia. General public stunned.

Publisher, surprised, temporarily suspends paedophilia book. Fanbase attack publisher for having no guts. Publisher reads book and then realises what he was going to publish was, in fact, paedophilia. Publisher decides not to publish paedophilia. Fanbase attacks publisher for not standing up for freedom. Publisher then shamelessly takes advantage of everyone looking in his direction.

Don't you just love the comics industry?

Back Issue Comics

"Be forward in coming back"
DC
AZZARELLO LEE WILLIAMS
SUPERMAN

www.backissuecomics.co.uk

We've got thousands of back issues in stock, buy 20 or more and the postage is on us*

http://www.backissuecomics.co.uk/

Probably the best **Back Issues** on the web!

forbiddenplanet international

artwork by Adam Hughes, "Wonder Woman" is © of DC Comics Group, "Spider-Man" is © of Marvel Comics Group & are used for illustrat[illegible] poses o

*Free postage applies to UK only

A comic subscription service out of this world

forbiddenplanet

forbiddenplanet international

This year with the release of sought after titles like 52 and Civil War there's more chance than ever of missing an issue. Make sure you don't by using our subscription service and save up to 25% at the same time!

http://www.forbidden-planet.co.uk/

SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE!
Advance order or start a subscription and get a massive **25% off** the normal cover price.

www.forbidden-planet.co.uk

Young, single, attractive, still got its own home

TALKING SHOP with Stephen Holland

Reminding people there's a real mainstream out there

OVER the last few years, the volume of debate about the fate of the periodical in the wake of the graphic novel's rising success (graphic novel, collected edition, trade paperback… those chaps with spines) has grown increasingly loud, whilst the threat of online and/or downloadable publishing replacing the monthly altogether has added a certain quiver to that voice.

I'm not convinced – especially not by the ugly orange, wraparound advert that smothered the cover to **Comics International** #202, suggesting we sit back and relish Bryan Hitch's foldout panoramas on a cell-phone window the size of a cube of sugar. (How many other retailers simply folded that back to reveal the cover which helps us actually sell the magazine? Us too!). Have you tried surfing the Internet on a mobile? Scroll, scroll, scroll! This is a *visual* medium, for God's sake. Reading horizontal or one-page gag strips like *Penny Arcade* or *Megatokyo* is just about endurable on a full-sized computer screen if you can stomach the content, but more than a few pages make my eyes bleed toxic Kirby dots. It's no surprise, then, that its postings act more like a quick-fix and successful promotion for their physical manifestations: the printed, collected editions.

It's not the same experience as downloading a TV series like *The Shield* that is *designed* to be viewed on a screen, or a music track *designed* to be heard through speakers. None of quality is lost if the transmission is up to it at both ends: it's all about the signal. Comics, on the other hand, are designed (well, the *best* are designed) to be relished as skilfully juxtaposed panels of images and words on a full, printed page. To have and to hold etc. I know that some creators like Paige Braddock and Carla Speed McNeil have retreated to the Internet instead of publishing individual loss-leaders for **Jane's World** and **Finder** respectively, but the statistics on periodical sales as a whole, collated by **Comics & Games Retailer** magazine, don't herald the death of the single issue just yet. Quite the reverse: there's been a steady rise in sales over the last three years.

OK, whatever. Maybe technology will make another of those leaps that evade me for a few years more than most, but that wasn't what I was actually planning to write about, which is a recent reversal in the predominant trend towards readers waiting for collected editions.

Over the last two years, we've had regular, hard-core, *collector* superhero customers asking us to stop reserving them monthlies in favour of waiting for the collected editions. Ten years ago only selected material (popular or quality – and occasionally the two coincide) would be reprinted as books, but now any old shit will do, so it's hardly the same gamble to forgo a monthly in favour of the (and I can't believe I'm fanning the flames) inevitably *cheaper* trade paperback. Truly, I understand. In addition, if you wait, you'll able to discern whether the series when completed lives up to its initial promise, and therefore worth your expenditure.

> *Statistics on periodical sales don't herald the death of the single issue just yet. Quite the reverse: they've been steadily rising over the last three years.*

But it's got to the point where even Warren Ellis, whose legion of readers are loyal and voracious, feels the need to disseminate the following warning regarding his deliciously vicious and politically attractive **Authority**-like series, **Black Summer**: "Here's the thing. If no-one buys the singles, there won't be a trade…

I know a great many of you prefer to read in trade collections, and I completely understand that. Obviously, we all hope there'll be a collection, and that the collection would do well. But right now there are no plans, no collection scheduled. It's all going to be riding on the singles. So all I'm going to say is, I could really use your support on the first six issues of the single."

Fortunately he's got it, and he's not alone because like any trend, it's been recently bucked by a few belligerent beasts like David Peterson's **Mouse Guard**, Brian Wood and Ryan Kelly's **Local**, Kieron Gillen and Jamie McKelvie's **Phonogram** and Ellis' own **Fell** with Templesmith on art. They've all sold, restock after restock, so sales have gone up as the series progress rather than down as generally happens.

Mouse Guard (mice fighting in a feudal fantasy land – hardly **Watership Down**, but gorgeous visuals) has an older readership than the others, in spite of it being kid-friendly, but the other titles share an interesting readership demographic: aged 16 to 25, cool, 50/50 male/female, and (like **Mouse Guard**) predominantly new to comics. **Phonogram** because it merges Britpop with **Hellblazer**, **Local** because it's about a similarly aged/orientated young girl just trying to find her place in the world, and **Fell** because each issue has been deliberately designed as a self-contained crime story plucked from today's headlines at a mere $1.99 a pop.

Crucially all of them have been kept in print, so that the singles can be picked up whenever the potential reader hears about or spies them on the shelves.

In addition there's Peter David and Jae Lee's **Dark Tower** series based on the Stephen King novels and Joss Whedon's own **Buffy**: **Season Eight**. The success of those two lies in their enormous fan base flocking in from the 'Real Mainstream' of prose and television, so you might expect that to fly in the face of my stated contention that the average person on the street would prefer a graphic novel to a periodical, but if you're a *Buffy* TV fan, would you wait for the DVD? No, you want to see the episodes as soon as they air.

So cheers to Dark Horse for havingfaith in initial print runs and quick thinking with new editions, and thank goodness Marvel reversed their numbskull inflexibility in refusing to publish second prints whatever the weather. Both they and we would have lost out on an enormous pot of gold, whilst King's and Whedon's fans, perhaps seeking out their first adult comic *ever* would either have been disappointed that they couldn't buy copies, or disgusted at any retailer price-gouging.

Instead we now know that there's life in the single issue yet, for which we're all very grateful, because the periodical is one of the comic shop's best resources in combating the book shops which a) don't sell them, and/so b) can't judge as easily how well the trades they'll buy might sell.

Sorry, forgot to mention: all titles listed above are actually very *good*. Quality helps sales too, thankfully.

Stephen Holland runs Page 45, a comic shop in Nottingham UK.

www.paradoxcomics.co.uk

Advance Order Service and Mail Order available.

Comic prices from:
$2.25 = £1.35
$2.99 = £1.80
...and low postage rates

ETERNALS
STARTLING STORIES
SENTRY: MAN or MAKE-BELIEVE?
ULTIMATE FANTASTIC FOUR 31
SUPERGIRL
YOUNG AVENGERS & RUNAWAYS

PARADOX
17 High St, Poole
Dorset BH15 1AB
01202 661346

OK Comics

In addition to our usual free standing order provision, our reading area, free coffee, international mail order, wide assortment of comics and books, thousands of classic back issues, we are now offering the following additions to our repertoire.

OK Comics now has a fully functional online store, with new comics and graphic novels added every week.

OK Comics has doubled the size of its completely free graphic novel lending library.

OK Comics has published its own 72 page comic book anthology, only available at OK Comics.

OK Comics now has an active, lively online discussion forum.

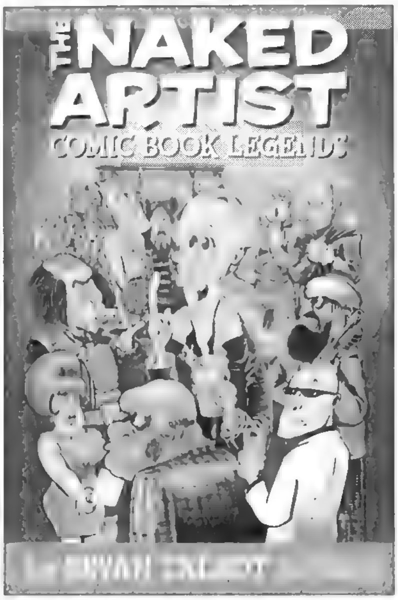
OK Comics
The comic book shop in Leeds
19 Thornton's Arcade, Briggate, Leeds LS1 6LQ
0113 2469366
www.okcomics.co.uk
www.okcomics.co.uk/shop/
forums.okcomics.co.uk

SILVERACRE.COM

- Over 125,000 different comics listed in our online catalogue with more than one million comics in stock.
- Everything from Spiderman #1 CGC 9.2 to Golden Age Captain America to the latest X-Men comics in stock from super high grades to low grade reading copies.
- We are interested in purchasing all types of collectable items - please consider my company when selling. We recently spent one hundred thousand pounds buying a collection. We spend thousands buying comics and collectables on a weekly basis.
- Fun user friendly website with lots of special offers and freebies. We sell comics from 1p up and you can buy comic bags on our website from 1p per hundred and yes you did read that price correctly. We also wholesale comics and comic supplies.

Silveracre Comics, PO Box 114, Chester, CH4 8WQ
Tel: 01244 680048 Fax: 01244 680686
www.silveracre.com eMail: sales@silveracre.com

Talbot spills creators' beans



Eagle Award-winning creator Bryan Talbot is lifting the lid on the antics comics creators get up to.

In conjunction with Moonstone Books, ***Comics International*** *is pleased to offer a couple of extracts from* ***The Naked Artist*** [cover left], *a book that bares all.*

BOTH incidents feature Grant Morrison but first up is what Bryan described to **CI** as probably his favourite story in the whole book. "It's very short. It's not as extravagant or outrageous as some but I love it. Steve Yeowell came up with this while we were having dinner at a Chinese restaurant during the Bristol Expo last year when I asked him if he had any good stories to tell. It's really cute!"

Glaswegian's alien surprise

Grant Morrison and *Zenith* artist Steve Yeowell were signing in a Glasgow store when they were approached by an intense-looking geezer who wanted to show them his artwork. He'd allegedly come up with a mind-blowingly original scenario for a science fiction graphic novel and he wanted their opinion on the cast of cosmic characters he'd invented for it. They flipped through the plastic sheets of the portfolio containing headshot after headshot of almost identical fat grey monsters.

No comic pages, scenes or full figures – just head shots. As their skimming grew faster, he suddenly stopped them by slamming a hand on a page. Pressing his face close to theirs, he pointed to one of the amorphous blobs and lowered his voice to a conspiratorial growl.

"This one…" he said, " .. has *three* toes!"

Grant Morrison explodes abroad

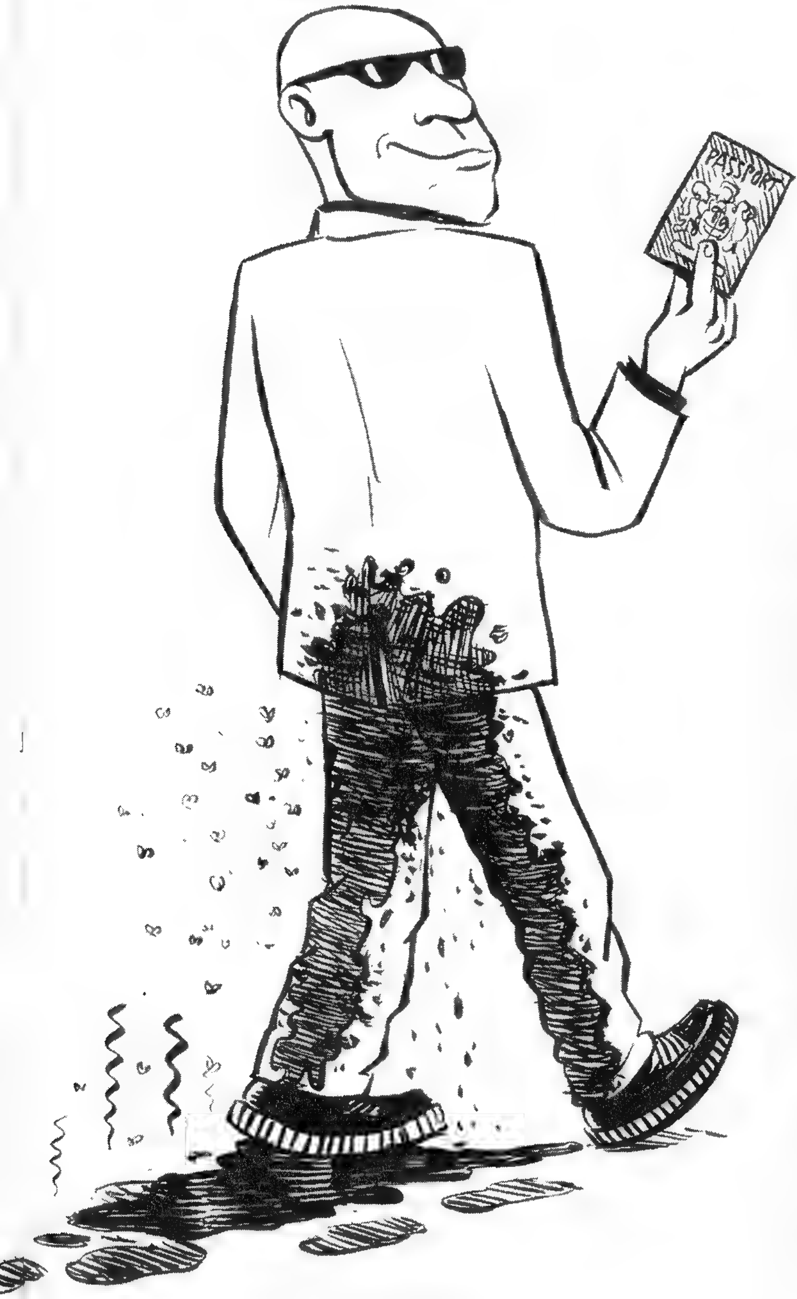
This next one may quite well be approaching the truth as Grant has told it to just about everybody who would stop and listen.

After making his name in America and a small fortune with titles such as *Animal Man*, *Doom Patrol* and *Arkham Asylum* in his first stint with DC, Grant Morrison shaved his head, took a whole year off and travelled the world'til his money ran out.

Packing his bag one sunny morning in a hotel room in Thailand and about to leave for India, he was presented with a dilemma: what should he do with his stash? He was loath to flush away the small collection of drugs he'd accumulated and equally loath to attempt to smuggle them through Indian customs, so he took the third path. He gobbed the lot. The type and quantity of these drugs change, depending on who's telling the story, but they're along these lines: a joint's worth of Thai grass, a lump of opiated hash, a tab of acid and a couple of Es. Buoyed up by this admirable application of the "waste not, want not" principle, he checked out and caught a taxi to the airport.

The flight, although uneventful from his fellow passengers' point of view, was a delirious phantasmagoria from that of Grant who was, by now, either a total mess or in an ecstatic state bordering on godhood, depending upon your criteria.

As the plane began its descent to Bombay, his hallucinogenic reverie was suddenly shattered as the narcotic cocktail he'd taken for breakfast began to have a drastic and unnerving effect upon his digestive system. His guts churned and, enhanced by the acid, his belly became uncomfortably distended as grumbling pockets of trapped wind battled it out for supremacy. In his hammered state, it took him a few minutes to read his body signals but he eventually realised what he had to do. He needed to fart. Urgently. It



Above: Hunt Emerson suggests that Grant Morrison might not necessarily have his shit together in one of his many illustrations for ***The Naked Artist: Comic Book Legends****, Bryan Talbot's forthcoming expose of the antics of comics creators. Shipping from Moonstone Books in August, the 128-page softcover is priced $11.95. Shown above left is the cover to the anecdote-crammed black and white tome; art by Emerson.*

was fast building into a peristaltic tsunami with a disturbingly high decibel potential.

He felt too embarrassed to simply let rip. The flight was crowded. They'd all hear his backdoor trumpet and laugh at him. It would scar him for life: their mocking faces appearing in black and white flashback whenever he needed to act cool.

He considered the toilet: it wasn't an option. He'd never reach it in time. Trapped in his window seat with two huge Indian matriarchs wedged in the seats between him and the aisle, his rectum ballooned with expanding gas, threatening to imminently explode.

In the hope of passing a silent one, he mentally chanted a tantric mantra and concentrated. Using preternatural skill, he carefully and very slowly began to dilate his sphincter, his buttocks spasming mightily as he fought to keep the tremendous flatulent pressures finely balanced. He was rewarded by a slow, controlled, silent emission that seemed to take forever.

Eventually he was completely deflated, sinking contentedly back into his chair in the delight of sheer relief. Several heads turned at the smell but – hey! It could have been anyone!

Still spaced out, arriving at Bombay airport he strode confidently up to the customs in his elegant white linen suit, suddenly feeling like the archetypical Englishman abroad. The fact that Grant is Scottish didn't mar this whimsical fancy. The customs officers quickly and unaccountably waved him through and he proceeded straight to his hotel. In his room, he immediately headed for the full-length mirror to appreciate what a fine figure he cut: the intrepid traveller, the sophisticated and handsomely cynical hero of a thousand adventures.

Then he noticed the stain. Turning around and looking back he saw that his white suit was soaked in dark brown from his waist to his shoes.

There's a variant of the above with Hong Kong as the destination.

www.goldenorbit.co.uk

COMIC MARTS & CARD SHOWS

TOP DEALERS SELLING 1000s OF COMICS, TRADING CARDS, TV/FILM MAGAZINES, POSTERS, BOOKS, MODELS, GAMES, TOYS & ALL KINDS OF SCI-FI/FANTASY MATERIAL!

BIRMINGHAM
SUNDAY: JULY 29, SEPT 9, NOV 11
NOVOTEL HOTEL, BROAD STREET
(off Paradise Circus), BIRMINGHAM

LEEDS
SATURDAY: SEPT 1, OCT 6
METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY, LESLIE SILVER BUILDING,
WOODHOUSE LANE (across from MERRION WAY)

LIVERPOOL
SUNDAY: SEPT 30, NOV 18
MARRIOTT HOTEL, QUEEN SQUARE
(behind St Georges Hall), LIVERPOOL

MANCHESTER
SATURDAY: AUG 11, SEPT 29, NOV 17
SACHAS HOTEL, TIB ST, PICCADILLY, MANCHESTER

NEWCASTLE
SATURDAY: AUG 4, OCT 13
RUTHERFORD HALL, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHUMBRIA,
ELLISON PLACE, OFF COLLEGE STREET

NOTTINGHAM
SATURDAY: AUG 25, OCT 20
NOTTINGHAM ARENA (at the National Ice Centre),
BOLERO SQUARE, THE LACE MARKET, NOTTINGHAM

SHEFFIELD
SATURDAY: JULY 28, SEPT 15, NOV 10
MAIN HALL, SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY,
HOWARD STREET, SHEFFIELD

DEALERS: WRITE FOR INFORMATION PACK
SEND SAE FOR FULL DETAILS:- GOLDEN ORBIT,
18 OAK TREE WAY, STRENSALL, YORK Y032 5TF
E-MAIL: information@goldenorbit.co.uk
OPENS MIDDAY

After 16 years in Tottenham High Road.....

KRYPTON KOMICS
has
Moved!

The new shop will be open for business from Thursday 15th March at:

94 Blackhorse Lane,
Walthamstow, London E17 6AA

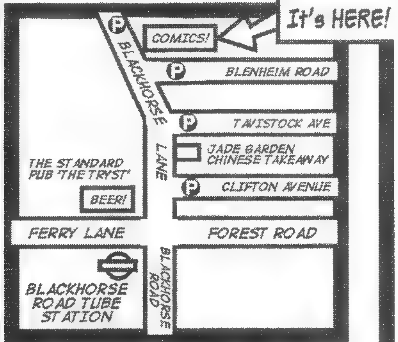
0208 801 5378

www.KryptonKomics.com

The new shop is just 2 minutes walk from Blackhorse Road Tube Station (Victoria Line)

Free 30 minute Parking is available right outside in Blenheim Road as well as Tavistock Ave, Clifton Ave and Blackhorse Lane.

Parking permits for longer stays will be available from the Krypton Komics shop.



Bus Routes: Number 158 stops 10 yards from our front door in Blackhorse Lane. Numbers 123, 230 & N73 all stop at Blackhorse Rd tube only 2 mins walk away.

LOOKING FOR HIGH GRADE SILVER ?
THEN LOOK NO FURTHER !
We are proud to announce the acquisition of a major U.S. collection of high grade Silver & Bronze Age books -
CALL NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE !!

Action Comics
Adventure Comics
BATMAN
ARMY WAR
HOUSE OF MYSTERY
WEREWOLF
X-MEN
IRON MAN
CONAN THE BARBARIAN

QUICKSILVER COMICS
19 THORNTONS ARCADE
LEEDS LS1 6LQ
01132 340111
WWW.QSCOMICS.COM

The right to silence

Novel Graphics by Paul Gravett

Highlighting the latest and best in graphic novels

FIFTY years ago, when artist Bernie Krigstein (1919-1990) finally turned his back on the Comics Code-approved, formula-bound, space-restricted, word-dominated American comicbook industry, the medium lost one of its few genuine visionaries, an inspiration to Jim Steranko, Frank Miller and others to this day.

Krigstein (pronounced Krig-styne, not -steen) was a thinker, a questioner, a radical, a man of culture with a love of art in all its forms, including the lowly comic. To many after World War II, drawing comicbooks was the very bottom of the ladder, a temporary job to pay the bills, while touting for something, anything, better. Coming from a fine art background to start working in comics full time from October 1945, Krigstein soon viewed them differently. As his colleague and friend Gil Kane put it, "Once he saw comics, he thought it was such an extraordinary area of expression that he wanted to be a part of it."

Best known for his EC short stories, Krigstein would eventually envision the sorts of ambitious, expansive, mature comics, using both words and pictures to their fullest, that have truly begun to flourish in the modern era of the global graphic novel movement. The tragedy is that by 1957 the constraints and tamperings from most editors and publishers pressured him into quitting. Finding his hopes dashed that larger literary publishers would develop comics in long-form books, he polished off one final 32-page oddity in 1962, based on the TV cop show of Ed McBain's **87th Precinct**, and then never drew published comics again.

> **"The word, the thought always came first. They weren't artists. There are no artists in comics."**
> **... Robert Kanigher**

Proof that this principled Jewish intellectual was years ahead of his time becomes abundantly clear in the 250-page **B. Krigstein Volume 1**, the first of Greg Sadowski's two-volume biography, and the companion compilation of **B. Krigstein Comics**, both from Fantagraphics and in the same format as those big, black-and-white EC Libraries. In the biography covering the time from his birth to his departure from EC in 1955, Sadowski highlights Krigstein's thinking and questioning about comics, not only in the six complete EC stories reprinted here and numerous extracts, but also through his forceful comments about the deeper possibilities of the comics.

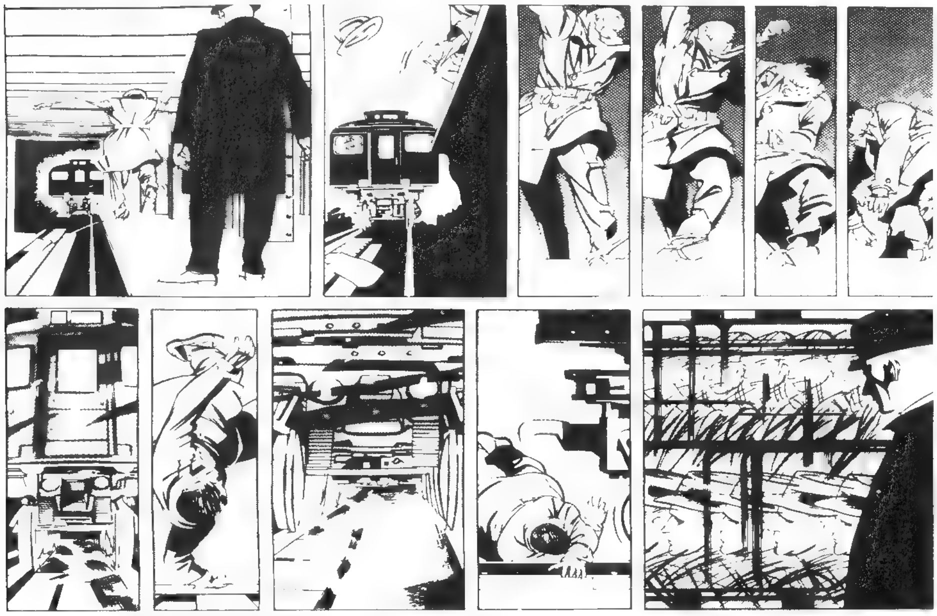
In a legendary 1962 interview with John Benson in the special sixth issue of EC zine **Squa Tront**, Krigstein reflects, "Until the artist arrives at the point where he realises that by drawing a single panel he has a single work of art that exists by itself, only then can all the panels live together. And then you reach a totality that is completely out of the realm of the infantile kind of page continuities that comics are filled with."

Two prime causes of the medium's infantilism were the insistence by most post-war publishers on 'value-for-money' anthologies of multiple short stories and on the domination of the word over the image, of telling rather than showing. It was as if without a constant running commentary, the reader might lose the story. Krigstein was saddled with wordy scripts and never granted more than nine pages maximum, and typically only four to six. With space at a premium and layouts standardised, even pre-drawn, the idea of one silent, word-free but meaningful panel, let alone a sequence, was almost unheard of. Comicbooks had no right to remain silent. The word always had the last word.

Early on at Hillman Comics he won some rare perks from editor Ed Cronin, who let him ink his own pencils and experiment with pacing and drawing. Nine of Krigstein's fine Hillman genre pieces from 1950 to 1952 are dusted off for the **B. Krigstein Comics** tome, but they offer only one silent sequence, four panels of a climactic cowboy shoot-out. During a later brief trial at DC Comics, however, editors ruled and artists could not deviate from its polished house veneer. Their war comics writer and editor, Robert Kanigher, went so far as to have Krigstein's artwork shaved with razors to 'correct' his expressionistic anatomy so that it conformed to his editorial standards of realism, before eventually firing him. Sadowski quotes Kanigher's definition of those who drew comics as "...illustrators of the written word. The word, the thought always came first. They weren't artists. There are no artists in comics."

Krigstein enjoyed more freedom, or less supervision, over at the high-volume 'factory' of Atlas, or Fifties Marvel, to pace and design at the pencil stage. He drew some 77 stories on and off between 1950 and 1957, more than for anyone else and roughly a third of his total. Several are presented in the compilation, many only four pages long. To make more of them, he reduced the opening image and subdivided each page into smaller and smaller panels. At his peak he squeezed a record 75 panels into only four pages. For all this effort, the page rate shrank to only $23.

The final straw came when editor

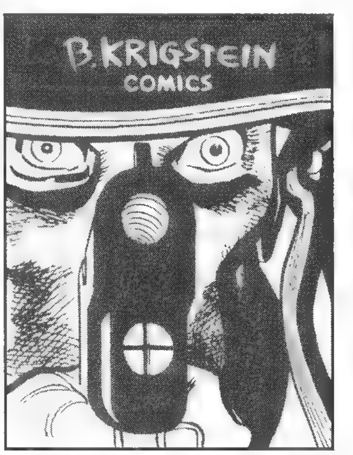


Recognised in the New York subway, a former Nazi concentration camp commandant panics and falls under a train. Pictures were finally allowed to speak louder than any words in Bernie Krigstein's 1955 EC classic Master Race.

and writer Stan Lee insisted that Krigstein amalgamate some of his extra panels to insert balloons into his deliberately silent sequences. When Krigstein refused and threatened to sue, the story was published unchanged. His next four-pager for Atlas was his last.

Bernie Krigstein's 44 stories for the maverick EC Comics from 1953 to 1955 are his pinnacle, but here too he struggled against their rigid working systems. EC is generally hailed as the period's most enlightened publisher and encouraged Krigstein to bring in a variety of artistic inspirations to suit each tale, from Chinese prints to German expressionist film. But still the writer and editor dominated. Their chief writer Al Feldstein, an artist himself, would provide Krigstein with artboards on which the empty panels were already lettered with often wordy descriptive captions and balloons. With all the breaking down of the story already done, and virtually all the story told in the words, Krigstein struggled to use the panel spaces to make pictures that could resonate with and interpret the texts, rather than simply accompany and duplicate them.

In these circumstances, it was a stroke of luck that Krigstein was assigned to draw *Master Race* which ran in the premiere of **Impact** in 1955. Feldstein, a Jew like himself, wrote this intense study of the legacy of the Holocaust in the second person, from inside the mind of a paranoid Nazi death-camp commandant who, on being recognised and pursued by one of his surviving victims on the subway, panics, runs and falls under a train. Assigned only six pages, Krigstein saw such scope in this unprecedented tale addressing the Holocaust, that he asked for an exceptional 12 pages; he had to make do with eight, thanks to the absurd dictum that this was the longest any EC story could run.



So he cut up the lettering and reconfigured the layouts to introduce extra panels, most famously an exceptional 2-tier, 11-panel, soundless finale. Art Spiegelman wrote about this in his *New Yorker* essay (read it at: www.newyorker.com/archive/2002/07/22/020722crbo_books): "The two tiers of wordless staccato panels that climax the story... have often been described as 'cinematic'. a phrase thoroughly inadequate to the achievement: Krigstein condenses and distends time itself. ... The cumulative effect carries an impact – simultaneoulsy visceral and intellectual – that is unique to comics."

The whole work became Krigstein's master class on the power of soundless, purely visual narration, on how sometimes pictures are more eloquent than any amount of words. As long as artists were constrained and overruled by writers and editors, collaborative American comicbooks would be thwarted from exploring their fullest potential. Even when Stan Lee left Jack Kirby or Steve Ditko free to pace and direct their Marvel classics, Lee could not resist filling most panels with his effusive writing. On occasions where silence was called for (a whole page of Kirby combat choreography between Captain America and Batroc for example), Lee had to add a snappy aside to draw attention to the anomaly. No wonder the wordless opening pages of **Nick Fury 1** in 1968 by solo writer-artist Steranko stood out as so innovative, as would later sequences in Miller's **Daredevil** and Moore and Gibbons' **Watchmen**.

The avenues that current graphic novelists can explore would have seemed like a dream to Krigstein. Post-EC, from the mid-to-late Fifties, he tried to persuade major literary publishers to let him adapt **War and Peace** by Leo Tolstoy, **The Red Badge of Courage** by Stephen Crane, **Fahrenheit 451** by Ray Bradbury and other books. Rather than squeeze them down to their bare-bones synopses, he laid out storyboards for opening them out into a hundred, or a thousand, pages and unlocking all their visual and verbal possibilities. No publisher would touch them. Through the Sixties, Krigstein escaped commercial illustration and returned to his other loves of painting, illustration and teaching, all fulfilling pursuits which earned him accolades, awards and a living. But he kept an eye out on comics. His widow Natalie remembered, "He did express great admiration for some of the underground comics in the 1970s, and he was tempted to return to the field – but perhaps he felt it was too late."

If only he could have been given that second chance then and explored the graphic novel like Will Eisner, two years his senior. Instead, we conclude the first volume of Sadowski's biography with a wealth of the artist's accomplished oils, watercolours, etchings and drawings. Most demonstrate Krigstein's undoubted skills and diverse media and influences. But frankly they reinforce the inescapable truth: that drawing comics was his most singular, significant gift, abandoned in frustration and disappointment.

To see more, visit: www.bkrigstein.com
Visit Paul at: www.paulgravett.comz

PG tips

Stop Forgetting To Remember

(Peter Kuper; Crown) $19.95

In what he calls a 'straight auto-lie-ography', Kuper adopts the thin disguise of Walter Kurtz, in tribute to his 'guiding lightbulbs', from the Walts (Disney, Kelly, Wood, et al) to Harvey Kurtzman and Jacob Kurtzberg, alias Jack Kirby. Spanning 1995 to 2005, incuding 9/11 and the Iraq War, cartoonist Kurtz recounts the life-shattering responsibilities of parenthood, in contrast to his frewheeling younger self wracked with angst over masturbating or losing his virginity, or experimenting with drugs and bisexuality. A symbol of that lost youth is a pigeon which flies in from the front endpapers to his studio window ledge, reappears through the chapters and provides the book's poignant ending, flying off on the inside back cover. To distinguish time, fantasy and memory, Kuper uses two colour schemes, black and brown, and remixes earlier confessionals collected in 1995's **Stripped** with over 130 pages of new stuff. After 13 years' gestation, it shows Kuper's mastery of the medium's formidable armoury and a touching frankness about his life from boy to father.

www.crownpublishing.com

The Salon

(Nick Bertozzi; St. Martin's Griffin) $19.95

Dive into this hallucinogenic tale about the modern art of murder, set in 1907 Paris at the birth of Cubism, and you'll follow Pablo Picasso, fellow artists and friend Gertrude Stein as they desperately hunt down a lunatic decapitating avant-garde painters, before they become the next victims. One secret weapon to solve this mystery is a particular lysergic liquor, a blue absinthe that allows humans to step inside paintings. But what if one painter becomes so addicted to staying in his paintings of paradise with his model that he started fixing them with this magic absinthe? Then what if his jealous, murderous muse makes her way back into our world? Bertozzi conveys these transitions graphically by evaporating his painterly black ink and assorted two-colour overlays into shades of the pure blue of the drink. He is clearly having fun portraying famous Modernists in broad brush strokes, such as Picasso's penchant for working naked and his heavy Spanish accent and even puts sound effects into French, like 'Thunque!' and 'Spluche!' Aside from a minor lettering kvetch (his commas look too much like full stops), this is an intoxicating brew.

www.stmartins.com

Blindspot

(Kevin C. Pyle; Henry Holt) $13.95

Moving house again, young Dean pals up with three local boys to 'play army' and turn a wooded part of the neighbourhood into their 'theater of operations'. Their war games are mostly harmless japes like initiating Todd, the youngest 'private', by getting him to steal an enemy flag, in fact a lady's laundry. To show how the kids' shared reality and fantasy slip and slide, Pyle interweaves these prosaic scenes, shown in black and different second colours, with the equivalent panels right out of a war comic poorly printed on four-colour newsprint. Their pranks take a darker turn, however, when they 'rescue' Todd from a dishevelled stranger in the woods by stoning him and then set fire to his humble shack. On Halloween, Dean's military dreamworld comes up against some harsher truths, when he is followed in the wood by this stranger and has to listen to his painful life story: 'The damn army was a whole 'nother nightmare'. Comics have long been propaganda for the US army to motivate gullible fresh recruits. So, in today's context of Iraq, this book may help other boys like Dean to deal with peer acceptance, masculinity, authority and parental expectations and in the process grow older and perhaps a little wiser.

www.henryholtchildrensbooks.com

PAGE 45

to sign up, send an e-mail titled 'add-me' to page45@page45.com

join our mailing list and get our e-shots each month reviewing forthcoming and new releases opinionated, irreverent yet fun

www.page45.com

Supergirl debuts on TV but where's Wonder Woman?

Mike Conroy's Frame to Frame

Examining the latest developments between films and comics

IT'S A puzzle. When Marvel is scoring one box office hit after another, just why is DC having so much trouble getting much benefit from the general public's ongoing love affair with superhero movies?

Let's face it, being owned by Warner Bros, one of the major movie studios, gives the publisher an inside track. But that hasn't helped. Owning three of the archetypal superheroes hasn't proven much help either.

Maybe the problem lies in an inability to make its characters appeal to a 21st century moviegoers.

While the Batman franchise has certainly been revitalised under director Chris Nolan (and Tim Burton before him), Bryan Singer's 'homage' to Richard Donner's *Superman: The Movie* [1978] did very little – if anything – to restore the Man of Steel to the top of cinema audience's 'must see' lists.

Panned by critics and fans alike, *Superman Returns* may have grossed $391 million worldwide but that was on a budget of $204 million. Compare that with *Batman Begins'* $372 million from a $150 million budget and you get an understanding of why Nolan's deep into production of a Bat-sequel (*The Dark Knight*) while *The Man of Steel* – the working title of the *Superman Returns* sequel – isn't even on the Warner Bros' schedule.

Gay rights activist

Certainly Singer's currently working on *Valkyrie* (with Tom Cruise) and apparently has *The Mayor of Castro Street* – the story of murdered San Francisco gay rights activist Harvey Milk – lined up to follow but do you think the studio would let Superman languish in limbo if audiences were demanding more? Of course it wouldn't. Strike while the iron is hot is the order of the day in Hollywood.

But why do the Marvel heroes (and Batman) work while Superman doesn't and Wonder Woman struggles to even escape development hell?

Personally, I think it's because DC's heroes are perceived as old-fashioned. Much as Superman worked in the 1970s because people could still relate to the whole 'Truth, Justice and the American Way' outlook, so he – and the Amazon Princess – don't work today.

"The worst thing that can happen in this scenario is that the studio just keeps hammering out changes and the writer falls into a horrible limbo of development."

...writer/director Joss Whedon, on his departure from Wonder Woman

On the other hand, the Marvel heroes were created in a later era and – as misfits and mavericks – they are more easily re-invented for today's audiences. It's the same with Batman, especially in light of his comicbook reworking by Denny O'Neil, Neal Adams, Steve Englehart, Marshal Rogers and, later Frank Miller.

In his transfer from comic book frame to movie frame, the Dark Knight does 'realism' with relative ease. It's much the same with Spider-Man, the X-Men et al. Superman, Wonder Woman and such other DC heroes as the Flash and Captain Marvel (*especially* the innocent, pure-hearted Captain Marvel) are too – er – whitebread to take the transition/update as readily.

Maybe it's why Superman – or rather Superboy – works so well on the small screen. While darker shows like *Heroes, The Sopranos*, *Deadwood* and *Battlestar Galactica* can certainly find an audience, mainstream TV viewers appear to want something less dangerous. Thus the success of such series as *Charmed*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and... *Smallville*!

And speaking of the 'Superman when he was a boy' series, when *Smallville* returns to *The CW* in the autumn for its seventh season, it will introduce Canadian actress Laura Vandervoort as yet another member of the DC Universe pantheon of heroes. Set to be a love interest for Jimmy Olsen and better-known as Supergirl, Kara Zor-El is described as Clark Kent's 19-year old way-ward cousin. Born on Krypton, she has all the same powers that he has plus she's able to fly.

Referring to Supergirl's previous screen appearance (in 1984's eponymous and execrable feature) producer Alfred Gough said, "I think that the film was so long ago, and so forgettable, that most people have done just that. Our interest in Supergirl stems from her recent resurgence in comics especially the work done by our old pal Jeph Loeb."

No flights, no tights

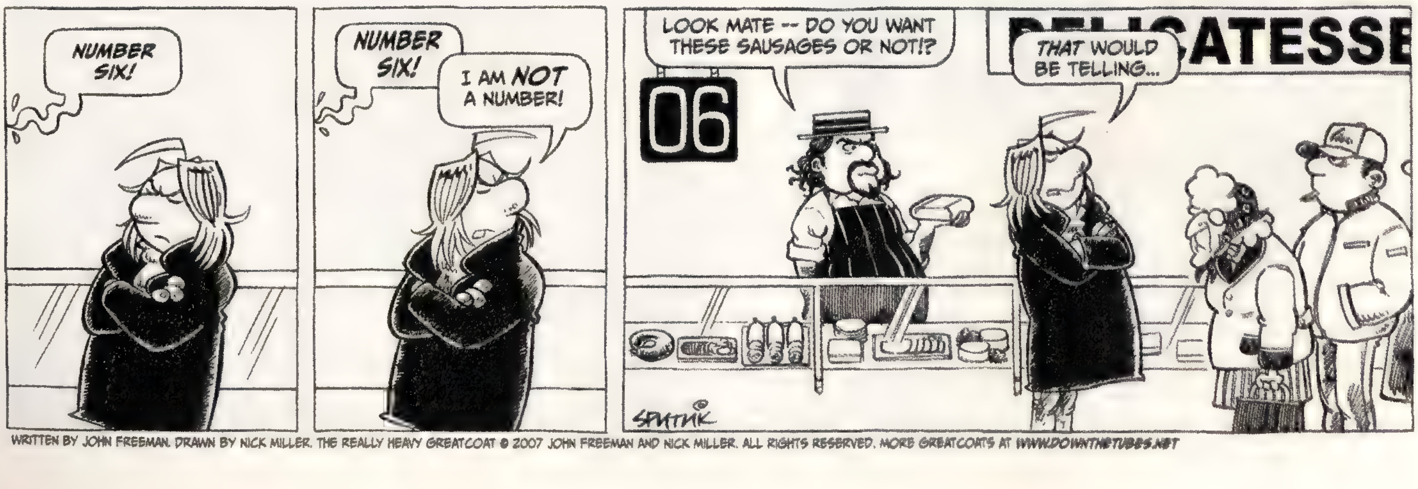
Given that Supergirl is going to fly, Gough responded to suggestions that maybe *Smallville*'s "no flights, no tights" ethos was being abandoned with a quick, "Kara will have flights, but no tights.

"Kara will be more advanced [than Clark]," he added, "although there will be powers that Clark teaches her about and vice versa – perhaps Clark will even attempt 'flying lessons.'"

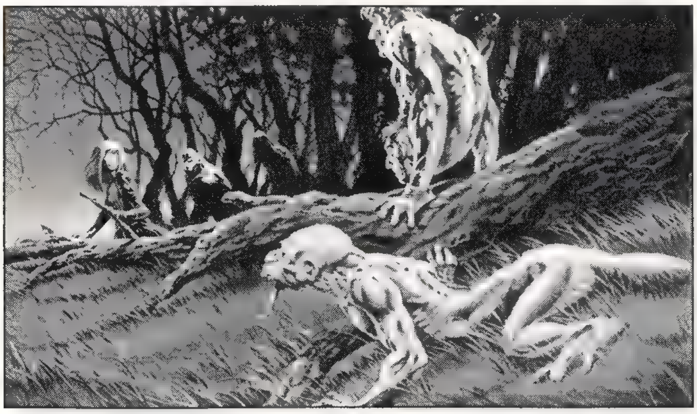
Gough also revealed that Helen Slater (the movie Supergirl) will be making her *Smallville* debut "although when, how and who she would play are still up in the air."

BEYOND THE FRAME WITH THE REALLY HEAVY GREATCOAT

Script: John Freeman. Art: Nick Miller


NUMBER SIX!
NUMBER SIX!
I AM NOT A NUMBER!
LOOK MATE -- DO YOU WANT THESE SAUSAGES OR NOT!?
06
DELICATESSE
THAT WOULD BE TELLING...
SPUTNIK

WRITTEN BY JOHN FREEMAN. DRAWN BY NICK MILLER. THE REALLY HEAVY GREATCOAT © 2007 JOHN FREEMAN AND NICK MILLER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. MORE GREATCOATS AT WWW.DOWNTHETUBES.NET



TWO YEARS ago **Swamp Thing** *co-creator Berie Wrightson hooked up with Gang of Seven Animation, working with the studio to provide updated character designs for a cartoon series based on* **Biker Mice From Mars***. As a result of that collaboration, G7 is developing an animated adaptation of* **Freak Show***. First serialised in* **Heavy Metal** *in 1982 novel, this horrific story of revenge involves a travelling carnival of "special people". It is written by Bruce Jones and illustrated by Wrightson* [see art, above].

Getting back to the big screen, with *The Dark Knight* in production and *The Man of Steel* not even on the horizon, what of DC's other heroes?

Wonder Woman

Warner Bros has been trying to develop a *Wonder Woman* movie since at least 1999. Jennifer Aniston, Sandra Bullock, Catherine Zeta Jones, Mariah Carey and even Madonna among the names linked to the title role down the years.

Minnie Driver and even Mrs Tom Cruise aka Katie Holmes have been in the frame but so far Angelina Jolie's name has been absent, which is surprising. If there's one current star ideally suited to portraying the Amazon Princess, it's her!

But while there's been rumour aplenty about the casting, there has also been a continuing rollover of scriptwriters and directors with Joss Whedon the latest to exit the project.

Brought in to both write and direct, back in 2005, the *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* creator announced, "I'm no longer slated to make *Wonder Woman*. What? But how? My chest... so tight! Okay, stay calm and I'll explain as best I can. It's pretty complicated, so bear with me. I had a take on the film that, well, nobody liked. Hey, not that complicated.

"Let me stress first that everybody at the studio and Silver Pictures were cool and professional," he continued. "We just saw different movies and, at the price range this kind of movie hangs in, that's never gonna work. Non-sympatico. It happens all the time. I don't think any of us expected it to this time, but it did. Everybody knows how long I was taking, what a struggle that script was and though I felt good about what I was coming up with, it was never gonna be a simple slam-dunk. I like to think it rolled around the rim a little bit, but others may have differing views.

"The worst thing that can happen in this scenario is that the studio just keeps hammering out changes and the writer falls into a horrible limbo of development. These guys had the clarity and grace to skip that part. So I'm a free man," he stated.

As to what happens now, Warner Bros and producer Joel Silver have purchased a spec script by Matthew Jennison and Brent Strickland. While Whedon's version was to have a contemporary setting, the newcomers' screenplay is set against the backdrop of World War II.

Whether this was a pre-emptive move to get the script out of circulation or the next development in the project's long gestation is unclear. What is for certain is that the second pilot for the 1976 *Wonder Woman* TV series was set during World War II and Warner Bros nixed that idea in favour of present superheroics.

For his part, Silver – whose credits include *The Matrix* trilogy, *V for Vendetta* and 2005's *House of Wax* remake – said, "We've been having trouble with that project. But I think that the Marvel Company's characters have been kicking the ass out of the DC Comics characters [theatrically]. And now it's time that we kind of get that back together. There's a new *Batman* coming out and they just announced the *Justice League* movie, which is pretty exciting. And we're going to make *Wonder Woman* work.

"We've had problems making it effective for today... work for today. And Joss tried, but we'll get there. I hope it can be as fantastic a movie as I want it to be," he concluded.

Wonder Woman is currently lined up for a 2009 release. That'll mean it'll have been in the works for at least a decade.

Given all the false starts to date, only time will tell if it gets out of the gate as currently scheduled.

Sh-bloody-zam!

Leaving aside that *Justice League* movie referred to by Silver (I'll take a closer look at that next issue), another DC hero heading for the big screen is Captain Marvel. However, as any long-term comics fan knows, Marvel's appropriation of the name back in 1967 prevents him from appearing in any eponymous title.

Thus we have *Shazam!* but – whatever name he works under – is there a more out-of-date hero around? Despite several revamps and relaunches, even DC has been unable to make Captain Marvel work since acquiring him, the other members of the Marvel Family and the rest of the Fawcett heroes in 1972.

Lined up to direct the movie is Peter Segal. He's a frequent Adam Sandler collaborator with *The Longest Yard*, *50 First Dates* and *Anger Management* among his credits. Those and his upcoming big screen version of *Get Smart* would imply a – dare I say it – light touch is being proposed for *Shazam!*? But maybe things aren't as doomed as they seem.

The screenplay comes from John August, who said, "the challenge – and opportunity – is to set up the story in a way that's entertaining and consistent with the established mythology. And I mean 'mythology.' Superheroes are our Greek gods, and while you can tell their stories different ways, there are key elements you just don't mess with. It doesn't matter if most of the audience is unfamiliar with a given myth; you can't just change it willy-nilly."

August has worked only not only *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle* but more importantly with Tim Burton on *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *The Corpse Bride*. That suggests a darker, more intelligent take may be the order of the day.

Let's hope Segal is swayed by August rather than vice versa!

All a-quiver

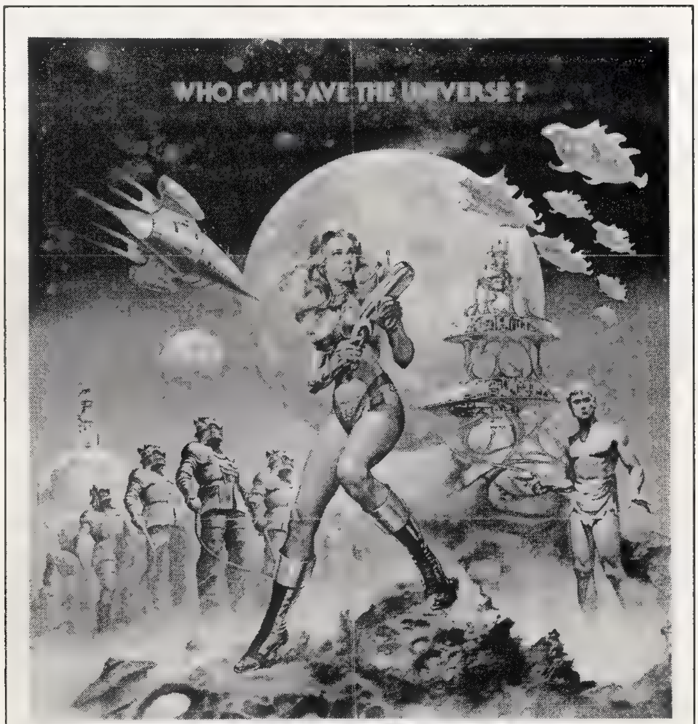
Meanwhile David Goyer is planning to bring DC's Emerald Archer to the big screen... well, sort of.

With the *Blade* trilogy as well as *Batman Begins* and its sequel under his belt, the writer is developing *Super Max*, which revolves around a wrongly convicted Green Arrow being banged up in the titular super max prison for out-of-control heroes and villains. There he comes face-to-face with a number of inmates, who reside there as a result of his crimefighting efforts.

"He's Green Arrow for the first 10 minutes of the movie, then he's arrested and his secret identity revealed," stated Goyer, – who also scripted *Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.* (the 1998 TV movie starring David Hasselhoff in the title role). "They shave his goatee and they take his costume and send him to prison for life , and he has to escape. It's like *Alcatraz*, and he has to team up with, in some cases, some of the very same villains he is responsible for incarcerating in order to get out and clear his name.

"Of course," continued the writer, who is proposing a graphic novel or miniseries tie-in, " tons of people try to kill him while he's in there. We've populated the prison with all sorts of B and C villains from the DC Universe. For the fans, there will be all sorts of characters the hardcore comic book junkies will know, but they're all going to be there under their human names and no one is wearing a costume, but there will be a lot of characters with powers and things like that."

Happy working on comicbook movies (and good at what he does), Goyer is lined up to write and direct Marvel's X-movie spin-off, *Magneto*. Until recently he was also on board to script the currently in-development *Flash* flick.



WHO CAN SAVE THE UNIVERSE?
BARBARELLA
QUEEN OF THE GALAXY
Paramount Pictures presents a Dino De Laurentiis production, Jane Fonda in "Barbarella" starring John Phillip Law, Marcel Marceau, Special guest appearance David Hemmings as Dildano and with Ugo Tognazzi as Mark Hand, Produced by Dino De Laurentiis, Directed by Roger Vadim, From the bestseller "Barbarella" by Jean Claude Forest published by "Le Terrain Vague", Screenplay by Terry Southern, a Franco-Italian co-production, Dino De Laurentiis Cinematografica S.p.A., Marianne Productions, Panavision® Technicolor® A Paramount Pictures Re-Release
PG

THE PRODUCER of 1968's Jane Fonda-starring Barbarella *has acquired the rights to make a new movie based on the French comic strip created by Jean-Claude Forest and first seen in* **V-Magazine** *in 1962. Together with his wife Martha, Dino De Laurentiis has inked a deal that also includes plans for the re-issue of the first two* **Barbarella** *books plus publication of material that hasn't been translated into English before. The producers have signed* Casino Royale *writers Neal Pervis and Robert Wade to scriptr the film, which, according to De Laurentiis, will be a modern adaptation, one that will highlight the main character's intelligence and fighting skills, in addition to her sexuality.*

Comics Economics

Top 100 US comics sales for February 2007

Civil War still at #2

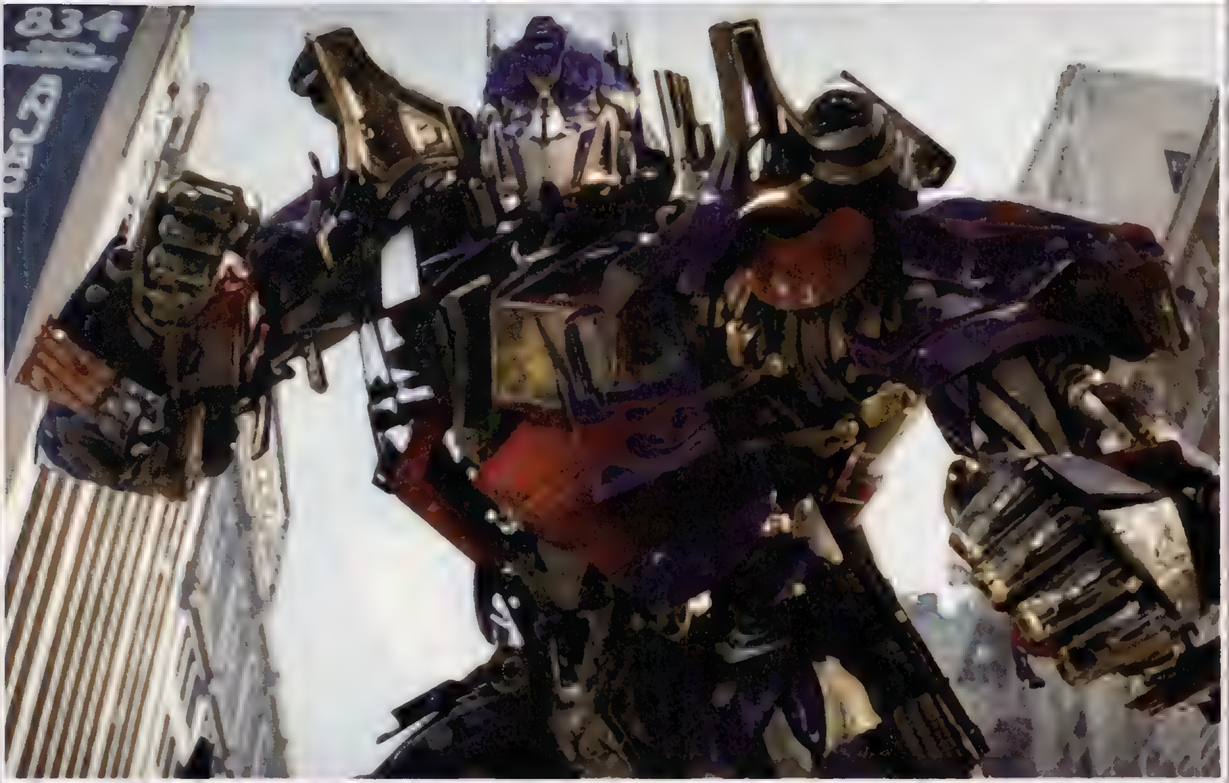
Rank	Prev	Title, Issue, Price & Estimated Direct Market Orders	Publisher
1	(=)	Civil War #7 $2.99 (265,935)	Marvel
2	(N)	Dark Tower Gunslinger Born #1 $3.99 (172,147)	Marvel
3	(4)	Amazing Spider-Man #538 $2.99 (142,956)	Marvel
4	(3)	New Avengers #27 $2.99 (130,531)	Marvel
5	(4)	Astonishing X-Men #20 $2.99 (119,736)	Marvel
6	(3)	Wolverine #51 $2.99 (97,181)	Marvel
7	(11)	Justice #10 $3.50 (94,960)	DC Comics
8	(13)	52 Week #40 $2.50 (94,694)	DC Comics
9	(8)	52 Week #41 $2.50 (94,486)	DC Comics
10	(9)	52 Week #42 $2.50 (94,220)	DC Comics

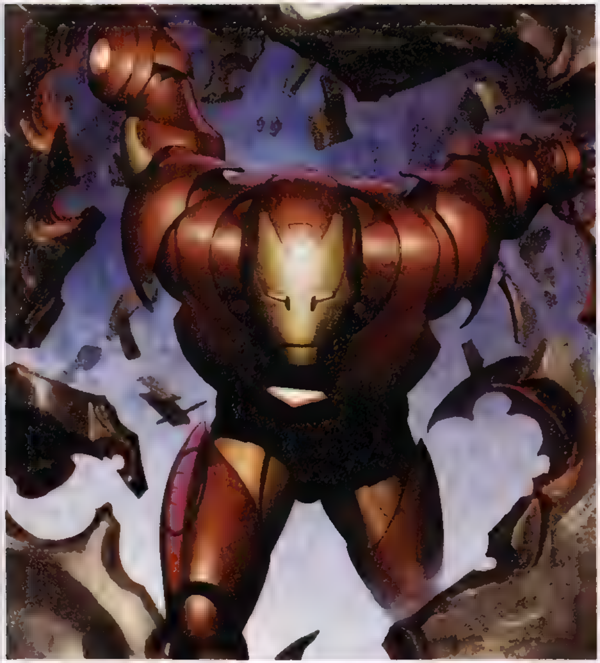
Dark Tower in at #2

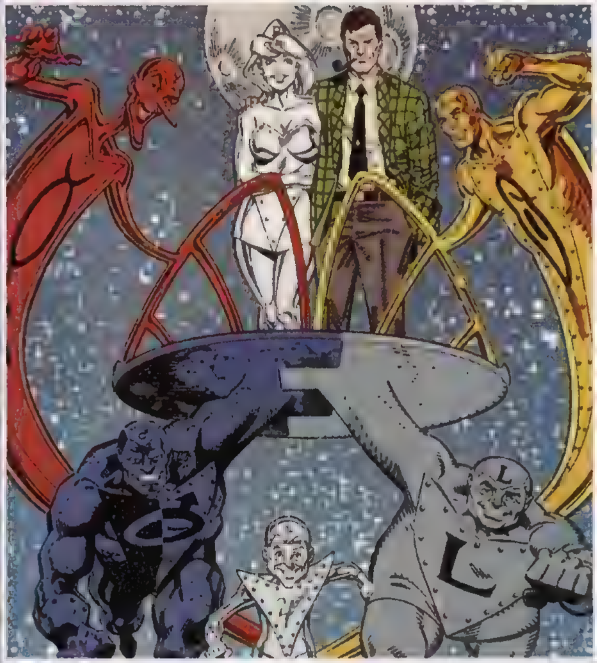
11	(13)	52 Week #43 $2.50 (93,935)	DC Comics
12	(5)	New Avengers Illuminati #2 $2.99 (92,881)	Marvel
13	(N)	Brave & Bold #1 $2.99 (92,091)	DC Comics
14	(7)	Civil War Front Line #11 $2.99 (89,163)	Marvel
15	(=)	Justice Society of America #3 $2.99 (84,356)	DC Comics
16	(20)	Batman #663 $2.99 (83,167)	DC Comics
17	(17)	Uncanny X-Men #483 $2.99 (83,009)	Marvel
■ International direct market retail orders estimated below 70,000			
18	(9)	Wolverine Origins #11 $2.99 (76,931)	Marvel
19	(=)	X-Men #196 $2.99 (75,707)	Marvel
20	(5)	Ultimate Spider-Man #105 $2.99 (74,376)	Marvel
■ International direct market retail orders estimated below 60,000			
21	(24)	Wonder Woman #4 $2.99 (68,860)	DC Comics
22	(N)	X-Men Annual #1 $3.99 (65,585)	Marvel
23	(32)	Action Comics #846 $2.99 (64,554)	DC Comics
24	(22)	Ultimate X-Men #79 $2.99 (64,363)	Marvel
25	(24)	Thunderbolts #111 $2.99 (62,791)	Marvel
26	(21)	Action Comics Annual #10 $3.99 (62,774)	DC Comics
27	(23)	Green Lantern #17 $2.99 (62,518)	DC Comics
28	(24)	Iron Man #15 $2.99 (60,562)	Marvel
■ International direct market retail orders estimated below 50,000			
29	(34)	Sensational Spider-Man #35 $2.99 (59,423)	Marvel
30	(25)	Eternals #7 $3.99 (58,899)	Marvel
31	(26)	Superman #659 $2.99 (58,256)	DC Comics
32	(28)	Black Panther #25 $2.99 (56,473)	Marvel
33	(30)	Detective Comics #828 $2.99 (55,206)	DC Comics
34	(33)	Supergirl #14 $2.99 (52,977)	DC Comics
35	(21)	Punisher War Journal #4 $2.99 (52,461)	Marvel
36	(41)	Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man #17 $2.99 (52,194)	Marvel
37	(36)	Ultimate Fantastic Four #39 $2.99 (52,134)	Marvel
■ International direct market retail orders estimated below 40,000			
38	(N)	Ghost Rider Trail of Tears #1 $2.99 (49,260)	Marvel
39	(38)	Ghost Rider #8 $2.99 (48,736)	Marvel
40	(31)	Flash Fastest Man Alive #9 $2.99 (47,214)	DC Comics
41	(33)	Daredevil #94 $2.99 (46,773)	Marvel
42	(35)	Incredible Hulk #103 $2.99 (46,696)	Marvel
43	(29)	Spider-Man Reign #3 $3.99 (46,050)	Marvel
44	(45)	X-Men Phoenix Warsong #5 $2.99 (44,578)	Marvel
45	(38)	X-23 Target X #3 $2.99 (42,132)	Marvel
46	(32)	Batman Confidential #3 $2.99 (41,109)	DC Comics
47	(45)	X-Factor #16 $2.99 (38,240)	Marvel
48	(37)	Silent War #2 $2.99 (37,895)	Marvel
49	(47)	New X-Men #35 $2.99 (37,142)	Marvel
50	(36)	Newuniversal #3 $2.99 (36,535)	Marvel
51	(43)	Superman Batman Vs Aliens Predators #2 $5.99 (36,119)	DC Comics
52	(N)	Shazam Monster Society of Evil #1 $5.99 (35,970)	DC Comics
53	(62)	Immortal Iron Fist #3 $2.99 (35,954)	Marvel
54	(48)	Green Lantern Corps #9 $2.99 (34,897)	DC Comics
55	(53)	Trials of Shazam #5 $2.99 (34,614)	DC Comics
56	(N)	Annihilation Heralds of Galactus $3.99 (34,548)	Marvel
57	(50)	Star Wars Legacy #8 $2.99 (33,533)	Dark Horse
58	(51)	Fantastic Four End #5 $2.99 (33,325)	Marvel
59	(54)	Ion #11 $2.99 (33,042)	DC Comics
60	(49)	Outsiders #45 $2.99 (32,978)	DC Comics
61	(55)	Punisher #44 $2.99 (32,951)	Marvel
62	(52)	Nightwing #129 $2.99 (32,851)	DC Comics
63	(59)	Exiles #91 $2.99 (31,712)	Marvel
64	(58)	Green Arrow #71 $2.99 (31,470)	DC Comics
65	(56)	Supergirl & LOSH #27 $2.99 (31,287)	DC Comics
66	(57)	Ms Marvel #12 $2.99 (30,763)	Marvel
67	(60)	New Excalibur #16 $2.99 (30,356)	Marvel
68	(61)	New Excalibur #17 $2.99 (30,073)	Marvel
69	(53)	Squadron Supreme Hyperion Vs Nighthawk #2 $2.99 (29,166)	Marvel
70	(65)	Birds of Prey #103 $2.99 (28,327)	DC Comics
71	(64)	Robin #159 $2.99 (28,210)	DC Comics
72	(69)	She-Hulk 2 #16 $2.99 (27,661)	Marvel
73	(73)	Cable Deadpool #37 $2.99 (26,566)	Marvel
74	(77)	Doctor Strange Oath #5 $2.99 (25,665)	Marvel
75	(75)	Conan #37 $2.99 (25,532)	Dark Horse
76	(72)	Spirit #3 $2.99 (25,516)	DC Comics
77	(79)	Y The Last Man #54 $2.99 (25,274)	DC Comics
78	(N)	Spider-Man Family #1 $4.99 (25,225)	Marvel
79	(81)	Runaways #24 $2.99 (25,216)	Marvel
80	(74)	X-Men First Class #5 $2.99 (25,125)	Marvel
81	(70)	Midnighter #4 $2.99 (24,782)	DC Comics
82	(71)	Heroes For Hire #7 $2.99 (24,476)	Marvel
83	(N)	Punisher Presents Barracuda Max #1 $3.99 (23,886)	Marvel
84	(80)	Astro City Dark Age Bk Two #2 $2.99 (23,412)	DC Comics
85	(83)	Star Wars Knights of Old Republic #14 $2.99 (22,895)	Dark Horse
86	(67)	Martian Manhunter #7 $2.99 (22,864)	DC Comics
87	(88)	JSA Classified #23 $2.99 (22,730)	DC Comics
88	(N)	Thunderbolts Presents Zemo Born Better #1 $2.99 (22,680)	Marvel
89	(87)	Iron Man Hypervelocity #2 $2.99 (22,522)	Marvel
90	(N)	Helmet of Fate Sargon Sorcerer #1 $2.99 (22,430)	DC Comics
91	(68)	Gen 13 #5 $2.99 (22,422)	DC Comics
92	(96)	JLA Classified #34 $2.99 (22,347)	DC Comics
93	(92)	Red Sonja #19 $2.99 (22,322)	Dynamite
94	(92)	JLA Classified #35 $2.99 (21,998)	DC Comics
95	(N)	Helmet of Fate Black Alice #1 $2.99 (21,986)	DC Comics
96	(100)	Powers #23 $2.95 (21,976)	Marvel
97	(98)	Avengers Earths Mightiest Heroes II #6 $3.99 (21,973)	Marvel
98	(95)	Shadowpact #10 $2.99 (21,823)	DC Comics
99	(N)	Legion of Monsters Werewolf By Night #1 $2.99 (21,773)	Marvel
100	(108)	Nextwave Agents of Hate #12 $2.99 (21,574)	Marvel

With [illegible]

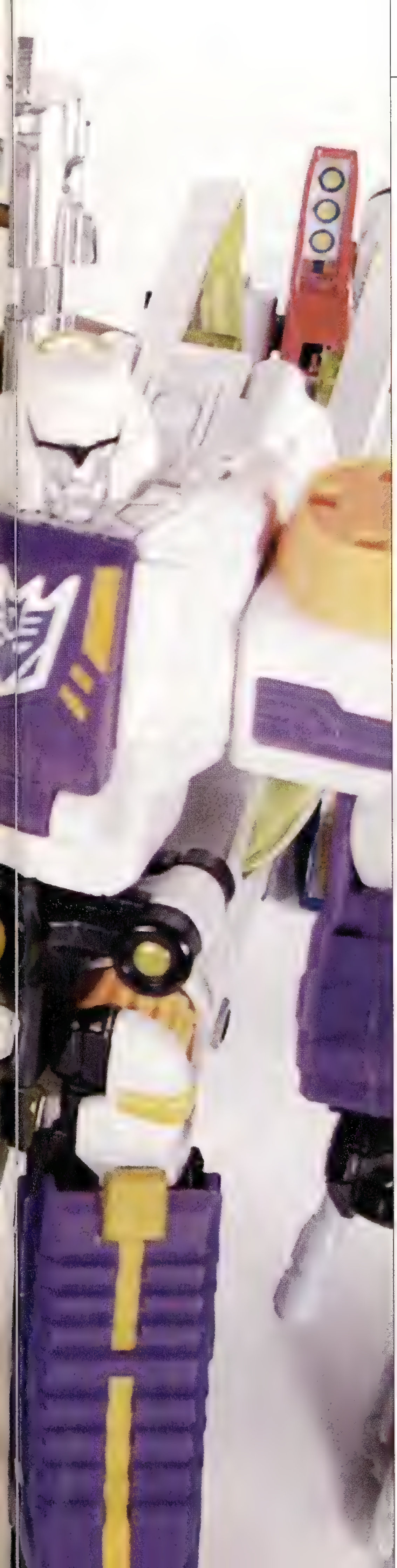
Metal Mayhem







**Comics International's Summer Showcase:
Transformers, Iron Man and Metal Men**



Action figure odyssey

Long-time **Transformers** writer Simon Furman spotlights important role of comics in Robots in Disguise rocky journey from Hasbro toy to screen

IT'S BEEN a long and winding road, as they say.

This July sees the release of the *Transformers* movie, a live action/CGI extravaganza with 'summer blockbuster' written all over it. Directed by Michael Bay, a man well-versed in such large-scale action/adventure epics, the movie seems set to generate a perfect storm of box office receipts and evolve into that most cherished of all Hollywood commodities: a franchise.

Already, pre-release, sequels are being prepped and primed (no pun intended). But back in 1984, when Transformers first exploded across toy shop shelves and TV screens, such a mainstream cinematic destiny must have seemed the stuff of pure fantasy.

To briefly recap (in case you've somehow been out of cultural circulation for the past 23 years): Transformers are, effectively, two (or sometimes more) toys in one, a robot in one configuration and a vehicle or weapon of some kind in another. Through a series of staggeringly complex manoeuvres (well, to anyone over the age of 13, anyway!), one is changed into the other.

The toys originated in Japan, where transforming robots were nothing new and already had a proven track record in terms of sales. US toy giant Hasbro bought the (Western) rights and added a comprehensive back-story and in-depth character profiles to the line, something the Japanese equivalents had sorely lacked.

From the outset, kids (reared on the likes of *Star Wars* and *Battlestar Galactica*) were gripped by the story of a civil war on the metal planet of Cybertron between two factions of transforming robots, the heroic Autobots and the evil Decepticons, a war that then spread to our world (with a distinct 'To be continued…).

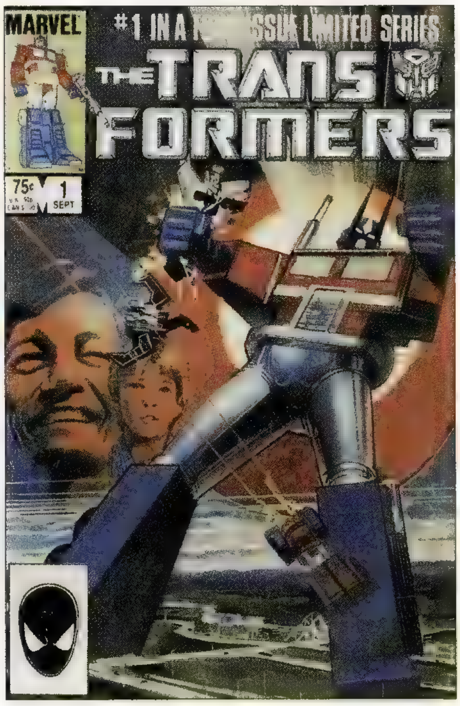
Nameless toys

Instrumental (pivotal even) in the creation of the Transformers saga was none other than Marvel Comics.

No stranger to creating enduring characters, and specialising in the kind of interconnected and cohesive universe approach to storytelling,its input defined and almost instantly immortalised a cast of characters that today have instant cultural recognition worldwide: heroic Optimus Prime, malevolent Megatron, kid-friendly and cute Bumblebee, the traitorous and conniving Starscream… the list goes on and on.

Back in 1983, Hasbro (armed with an array of toys that, in most cases, even lacked names) approached Marvel (based on their success with *G.I. Joe*, another Hasbro property) with a view to crafting an underpinning saga to support the new line.

The job of sketching in the broad strokes of the story fell to Jim Shooter, at the time Marvel's editor-in-chief. His initial treatment was then passed to writer/editor Bob Budiansky (who remembers he was not the first to be offered the job!) to refine and expand upon, which he duly did, adding key names like Megatron and generally defining the entire cast of characters and their abilities (in some considerable depth). With, effectively, a concept 'bible' locked in, Hasbro then licensed Transformers back to Marvel, who embarked on what was initially slated to be a four-issue comic miniseries.



Above: The cover to the 1984 first issue of Marvel's ***Transformers*** *comic; art by Bill Sienkiewicz. Left: An array of figures from the 1984 first wave of Hasbro's Robots in Disguise range of action figures.*

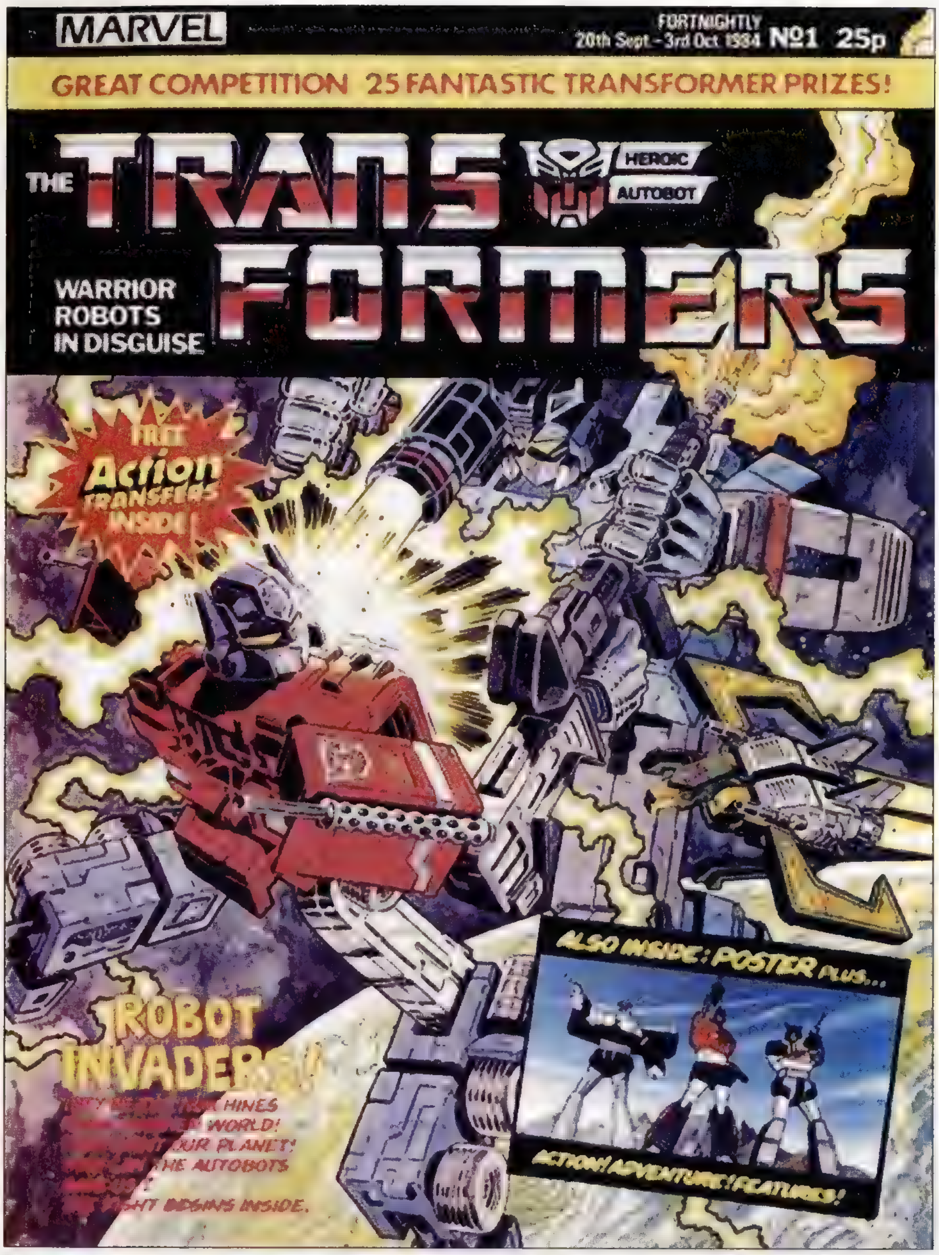
Simultaneously, the work Marvel had done on the story and characters, went Westwards to Marvel's animation arm. In conjunction with Sunbow Productions it embarked on an initial 16 episodes of a *Transformers* cartoon series (that was to prove supremely popular in its own right, generating a further two series and an animated movie).

Marvel's four-issue **Transformers** miniseries was such an instant sales success that before issue #4 had even hit the stands a decision was taken to make the series ongoing.

Originally, Bob Budiansky (who had laid so much of the nuts and bolts groundwork) acted as editor on the series, with script duties falling to the likes of Jim Salicrup, Bill Mantlo and Ralph Macchio. But with issue #5 Budiansky handed the editorial reins to Jim Owsley [now known as writer Christopher Priest] and focused his attentions on the writing side of the equation.

Under his guidance, the series rapidly went from strength to strength, and (bar the odd fill-in issue) he remained as the mainstay of the comic series until issue #55 (when, suffering from **Transformers** burnout, he voluntarily stood down). Various artists came and went

continued overleaf


MARVEL
FORTNIGHTLY
20th Sept.-3rd Oct. 1984 Nº1 25p
GREAT COMPETITION 25 FANTASTIC TRANSFORMER PRIZES!
THE TRANSFORMERS
HEROIC
AUTOBOT
WARRIOR ROBOTS IN DISGUISE
FREE Action TRANSFERS INSIDE!
ROBOT INVADERS!
ALSO INSIDE: POSTER PLUS...
ACTION! ADVENTURE! FEATURES!

Above: The cover to the 1984 first issue of Marvel UK's ***Transformers*** *comic; art by Mike Collins. Far right: Coming more up-to-date, E.J. Su's art for the alternate cover to the first issue of* ***Transformers: Escalation****, IDW's 2006 six-parter. A* ***Transformers*** *regular, Su was born in Taiwan but is now based in the US.*

continued from previous page

on the series, with Don Perlin, Herb Trimpe, Jose Delbo and Frank Springer all pitching in at some point (and for varying durations). Fans retrospectively agree that the two issues pencilled by William Johnson (#7 and #8) were the artistic high point of the first 50 or so issues.

Furman's first

Meanwhile, over in the UK, Marvel's London office was also publishing a **Transformers** comic, which both reprinted the US comic strip material and generated home-grown Transformers stories, which were then laced (as much as possible) into the ongoing saga.

Published first fortnightly then weekly, the UK comic simply didn't have enough US strip to reprint, so an ever-increasing amount of work by UK creators had to be generated. The first story to appear in print this side of the Atlantic was *Man of Iron*, written by Steve Parkhouse and drawn by John Ridgway. The second UK story *The Enemy Within* was written by a certain Simon Furman, and the rest is history, as 20-plus years later I'm still writing **Transformers**.

Hundreds of UK **Transformers** stories followed, and when Budiansky decided he and **Transformers** (US) were parting company, I took over the writing chores (with issue #56). Andrew Wildman and Geoff Senior, both of whom had drawn many pages of UK-**Transformers** strip, also gravitated to the American title in due course.

The usual cycle with toys (and the licensed products thereof) would have seen the brand's fortunes thrive for a year or two, maybe three at the outside, then start to decline, as the hearts and minds of its target audience moved on to bigger, brighter (or just newer) things.

But somehow, with Transformers, that never quite happened. In the case of Transformers, both toy line and comic(s) carried on well past their usual shelf life span, with Generation 1 (as the classic incarnation was latterly dubbed) running from 1984 to 1991 or so.

Brand magic failure

In that time, the US comic clocked up 80 issues (plus various miniseries and crossovers), while the UK title ran to issue #332 before it too finally succumbed to falling sales. At its height, the UK **Transformers** comic was selling over 200,000 copies a week, and even at the time of its cancellation, the US comic was selling over 70,000 copies a month (which would more or less make it a Diamond Top Ten title these days). But even this wasn't the end!

In 1993, Hasbro launched Transformers Generation 2, a mix of classic and new characters in something of a continuation of what had come before. Marvel also returned to the fray with a **Generation 2** comic series, but this time the brand magic failed to work.

Supported only by the comic and an animated TV series that was just the original series given a cosmetic CGI facelift it failed to captivate its target audience as Generation 1 had done. By 1994, with just 12 comic issues' (two of them giant-sized) worth of storyline in print, **Transformers** was gone again and, it seemed, for good this time.

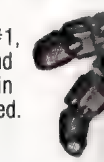
But one of the Transformers brand's greatest strengths (and the most likely reason for its longevity) is its ability to almost completely re-invent itself, to the extent that one might be forgiven for thinking it's become something else altogether.

That was certainly the case with *Beast Wars*. This time (1996), the relaunch got it right, (almost) starting from, er, scratch with a line of toys that ditched the vehicular alternative forms in favour of wild animals, birds, insects and more. Hand-in-hand with a full throttle CG-animated series created by Mainframe (responsible for the then-pioneering *Reboot* series), *Beast Wars* (Transformers featured on the toy packaging as more of a subtitle in this new incarnation) roared back into the hearts and minds of kids both sides of the Atlantic.

But despite the return to form of the brand itself, this was still a wilderness period for Transformers in terms of comics publishing.

The only comics to surface between 1993 and 2002 were funded and produced by the organisers of Botcon, a dedicated 'all things Transformers' fan convention that had first opened its doors in 1994.

The first of these, **Tales from the Beast Wars** #1, was produced for the 1997 Botcon convention, and subsequent standalone issues were produced in 2000 and 2001. Then, in 2002, everything changed.



Financial mismanagement

Everything '80s was suddenly fashionable and desirable again and, sensing an opportunity (and a distinct gap in the comics market), DreamWave Productions – co-owned by artist Pat Lee and his brother, Roger – pounced on the long-dormant **Trans-formers** comics license.

DreamWave hit big. The retro wave and the now-thriving Transformers fanbase carried their first issue of **Transformers** (**Generation 1**) to the top of the Diamond sales chart. Pat Lee's dynamic, cinematic art proved a hit with comics fans in general, and for two years **Transformers** comics (under the DreamWave banner) proliferated. As well as a second six-issue **Generation 1** series and an ongoing title, DreamWave published **Transformers: The War Within**, **Transformers Armada** and **Transformers Energon**, plus a miniseries or two.

The Canadian publisher's entire roster of artists (and most of its editorial department), it seemed, had grown up reading or watching Transformers. Back in the '80s, it had been, for the creators involved, a job. Now it was a labour of love.

When DreamWave, largely as a result of financial mismanagement, dropped the ball (finally declaring bankruptcy in December 1994), it was picked up by San Diego-based IDW, the current **Transformers** comics publisher.

Part of IDW's game plan was to 'lose the "retro" tag that Transformers seemed to have acquired over its 20-year (plus) life-span and make it generally more user-friendly.

It was, in most quarters of the media and the comics industry, lumped together with other recently revived '80s properties (such as *Thundercats* or *Masters of the Universe*). Chris Ryall, IDW's editor-in-chief, felt it could be more than that, and, taking Marvel's Ultimate line (in which iconic characters are revamped in a contemporary setting without all the accompanying baggage of x-number of years worth of publishing history) as a model, initiated the company's revisionary look at Transformers in a procession of interconnected mini-series (**Infiltration**, **Stormbringer** and

Escalation as well as the upcoming **Devastation**).

Most recently, IDW published a four-issue prequel to – and an adaptation of – the afore-mentioned summer blockbuster *Transformers* movie, bringing us effectively bang up to date.

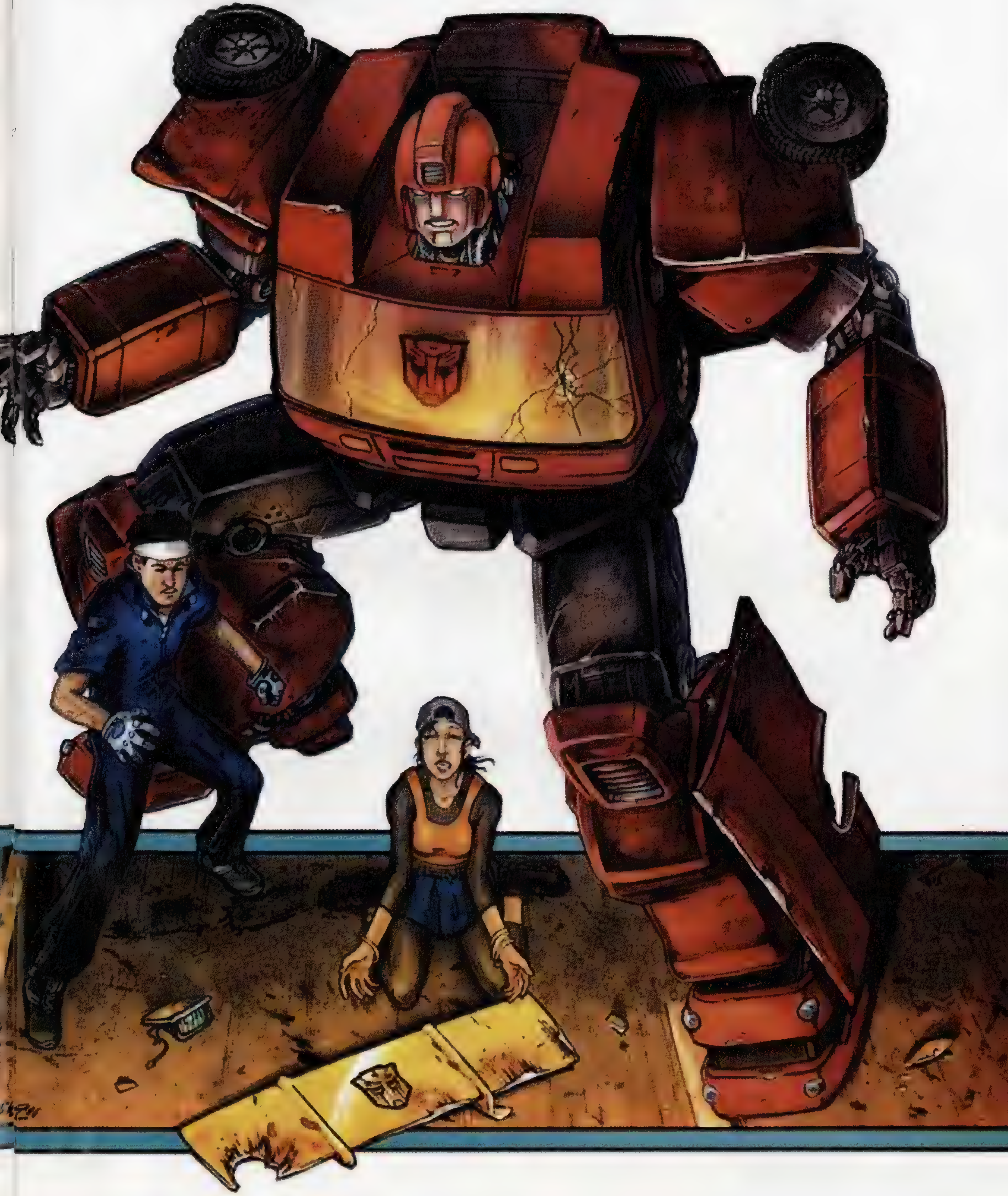
Like IDW, the movie producers were of a mind to wipe the slate (somewhat) clean and start again and, in the process, attract a much wider audience, one largely unburdened by the preconceptions of the long-term fans.

The movie has also regenerated a long-absent limb of **Transformers** comics publishing: a dedicated UK title with original strip material. Titan Magazines has launched issue #1 of a new comic/magazine, dedicated to all things Transformers.

Continuing the tradition of Marvel UK's Transformers comic, the title will present a mixture of reprint (from IDW's **Transformers** strip library) and new strip (set in the movie continuity), featuring 'classic' artists such as Geoff Senior and Andrew Wildman and next generation artists like Don Figueroa and Nick Roche. Everything old is new again.

So why? What's the reason for the amazing longevity (23 years and counting) of Transformers and the sheer amount of passion and devotion it stirs up in fans? Could it be, at its simplest, it's just a damn good idea. I mean, robots that turn in cars, fighter jets and tanks.

What's not to like?



Simon Furman has built a career out of expanding the Transformers comicbook universe. In a **CI** exclusive, he takes a look at what Paramount has done on the big screen to the robots in disguise.

TRANSF

Simon Furman

SIT BACK. Deep breath. Open mind.

That was me as the cinema lights dimmed and the long-awaited, much-anticipated *Transformers* movie started to unfold on the big screen.

As much as possible – given the sheer saturation-level involvement I've had in Transformers as a whole and (more peripherally) in the movie itself – I wanted to judge the movie on its own merits, as if I were coming to it fresh. Because that's what most people who see this in the coming months will be doing. Even if they have a vague awareness or nostalgic childhood memory of the original '80s phenomenon – which just happens to have endured and thrived for the past 23 years – most people will just see this as a summer blockbuster movie, one that will either thrill or disappoint… or end up somewhere in the middle.

The fans will have (and have already had) their own opinion, based on how much of 'their' Transformers has translated to the big screen and how well. But that's another review entirely. I actually *wanted* this to be a re-invention, something that was complete and self-sustaining, and in this regard the movie really does succeed.

Bumblebee, once a VW Beetle, is now a Chevy Camaro. Optimus Prime has a mouth. The robots themselves are less blocky and far more like complex alien robotic beings. And so on. These things help to create a defined sense of identity for the movie, instead of it just being perceived as a retro-inspired repackaging. And while there are a few nods to the franchise as a whole and some knowing in-jokes, everything else is set up here as an introduction to the idea of transforming robots fighting an interplanetary civil war.

The fact that Autobot leader Optimus Prime is voiced by Peter Cullen, who provided the animated Prime's voice back in the '80s will be neither here nor there to most viewers. But for the fans its a big deal, and in many ways an acknowledgement of their devotion to the whole franchise.

First contact

The plot of the movie centres on the loss of/search for the All Spark, a cube-shaped cosmic power source that once provided life and sustenance for the Transformers' home planet of Cybertron.

It ends up on Earth (naturally), precipitating a showdown there between the evil Decepticons, who want to subvert the All Spark's power and kind of recreate Cybertron on Earth and the heroic Autobots, who want to stop them, even if it means destroying/sacrificing the All Spark. And that's about it, story-wise. Oh, there's a fledgling high school romance strand wherein non-Jock Sam Witwicky (Shia LaBeouf) struggles to woo gorgeous, unattainable Mikeala (Megan Fox) and the trials and tribulations of a Special Forces unit led by Captain Lennox (Josh Duhamel) who escape a first contact with the Decepticons at a US forward base in Qatar, but largely story and characterisation are squeezed out in favour of more and more jaw-dropping action and special effects.

In fact, one story strand – that of computer analyst Maggie (Rachael Taylor) and her hacker buddy (Anthony Anderson) – is overwhelmed to the point it barely seems worth having left it in the movie at all. All it seems to do is complicate a plot that just shouldn't be complicated at all.

There are so many characters and organisations (the military, Pentagon staff, Sector Seven, computer experts and so forth) that they tend to trip over each other, to the extent that in some places I wasn't sure exactly who was doing what and why or even who was answerable to whom. In the end, it barely mattered. The pace and cut of the film (in places frenetic) sweep you along too fast to care much about the human cast or the odd plot hole you could drive Optimus Prime through; such as why Duhamel's Special Forces unit decide to make a last stand in the most densely populated bit of city they can find!

Still, amidst a frenzy of explosions and battling CGI robots, LaBoeuf does manage to impress as Sam and Fox is very easy on the eye. Jon Voight, though, as Defence Secretary Keller, phones in his performance and John Turturro's Sector Seven agent (Simmons) veers madly between menace and parody.

Warring robots

Where the film triumphs is, first and foremost, in the realisation and execution of the warring robots in disguise. They're quite simply amazing, and so well integrated into the live action environment that you can't see the computer generated join, even if you look for it. And I did, on several occasions.

Optimus Prime is a stand-out, as is Bumblebee, who gets the most screen time. In fact, only Frenzy, the pint-sized infiltration Decepticon, struck me as overtly computer-generated and a bit… silly. Oh, and there's simply not enough of Megatron in the movie. Characters like Devastator or even Starscream could easily have been sacrificed in order to give Megatron more to do in the climactic scenes. We hardly see his interstellar jet mode at all.

Mind you, the bit where Megatron casually flicks away a stray human bystander with a low growl of "disgusting" wins my award for the best line in the whole movie.

One of the best *scenes*, however, is where the Autobots creep around in Sam's back garden and hide from his bemused parents (one of very few times in the movie where the pace drops below Mach 3). It's so well shot and composited, and clever/funny to boot, it shows the cutting-edge effects technology in its very best light.

Fillings-rattling action

Some of the battle/action scenes, brilliant as they are, are so fast and furious (blink and you'll miss this or that transformation) you don't have time to appreciate just how incredible the robots really are when they're on screen. Here, and just generally, the movie would have benefited immensely if the action/effects had just been slowed down a notch or two.

The action sequences are staged with lots of big, brash (and loud!) style by director Michael Bay. No sooner had the credits rolled than the first series of explosions rattled my fillings and slammed me back in my seat, and every five or 10 minutes the process is repeated and trumped (with ever more force and crescendo). Everything is in-your-face throughout, the camera up close on every impact as the set pieces become bigger and bigger, the scale of mass destruction simply awesome to behold.

But a certain amount of the law of diminishing returns does start to come into effect. You become a little inured to what otherwise would be spectacular, simply because there's so much of it.

It's definitely crowd-pleasing stuff, and some of it well and truly dropped my jaw, but you start to feel a bit like a casualty of war yourself as more and more missiles strike and whole cities fly apart at the seams around you.

Overall, *Transformers* hits the mark most of the time, every inch the definition of a summer block-buster action movie, one that carries you along like a theme park ride, from staggering set piece to staggering set piece.

I suggest, though, disengaging your brain and letting that inner child well and truly out. I did and, with the odd reservation, I enjoyed the ride!

ORMERS

Shellhead's big screen blast!

Richard Burton spearheads **CI**'s first look at blockbuster *Iron Man* movie rocketing cinema-wards in 2008

TONY Stark; billionaire American industrialist, inventor, ex-arms manufacturer, celebrity, womaniser, recovering alcoholic. Forced to wear an electronic vest to stop a life-threatening injury from killing him, he builds a suit of metal armour around this vest; then embarks on a career as a crime-fighting superhero.

The question is: why hasn't a film about this guy hasn't been produced before?

Well, finally, an *Iron Man* movie is in production and scheduled to hit our screens in May of next year. Directed by Jon Favreau, of *Elf* fame and starring Robert Downey Jr, BAFTA winner and Oscar nominee for *Chaplin* [1992], it promises to be the next in a line of big-budget, blockbuster Marvel movies of the type that we have become used to in recent years. Whether 'big-budget' will equal quality remains to be seen but the subject matter is one of the self-styled House of Ideas' more interesting mainstream characters.

Man of iron

Introduced in **Tales of Suspense** #39[1963], Iron Man was originally your archetypical Cold War, Commie-bashing superhero. Industrialist Anthony Stark made his fortune from making weapons designed to flush out Reds from under the beds of god-fearing Americans.

For his trouble he ended up seriously wounded in Vietnam and imprisoned. But, thanks to an assist from his cellmate – the brilliant Professor Yinsen – constructed an electronics-packed metal vest that kept a piece of shrapnel from piercing his heart.

Stark soon realised that, if he added some arms, legs, hands and a helmet to this vest, he'd have a pretty nifty suit with which to fight those godless Pinkos and send them packing back to the motherland.

This virtually impenetrable armour allowed him to soar through the air, possess superhuman strength and unleash an array of weaponry, from repulsor beams to magnetic fields.

However, the fact that this grey suit of armour (designed by Jack Kirby) looked like a reject from a bad Fifties B-movie – even with a coat of gold lacquer – didn't impress the fans and it wasn't long until the prototype of the current red and gold armour appeared. This has largely defined the look of Iron Man ever since, although constant technological upgrades have caused the suit to evolve in subtle ways, incorporating such gadgets as flying boots, plasma energy weapons and light-based armaments fired through the chest-mounted uni-beam. All of which should give the filmmakers a fair amount of latitude when it comes to visualising the on-screen Iron Man.

Nuts and bolts

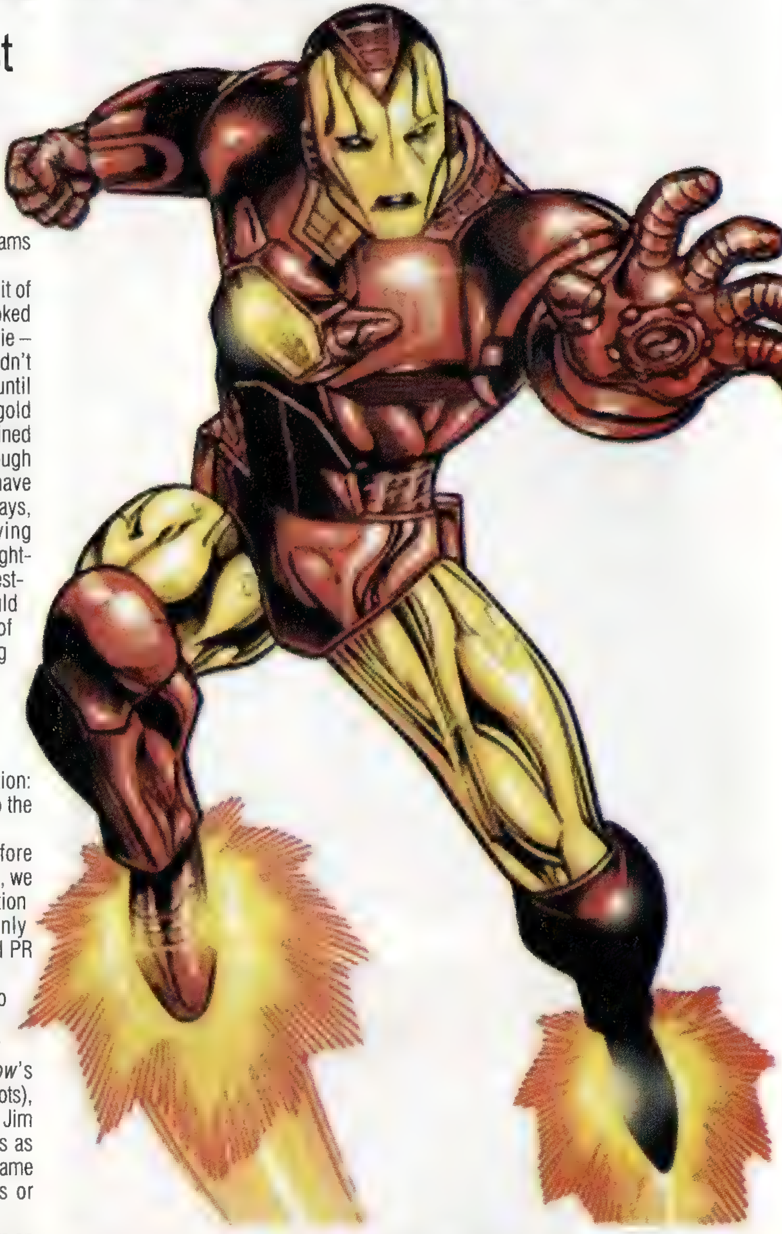
Which leads to the inevitable question: how faithful is the film going to be to the comicbook?

At this point, almost a year before release and with cameras still rolling, we have to rely on the scraps of information gleaned from myriad sources – only some of which are cunningly placed PR leaks – but the signs look good.

Aside from Robert Downey Jr (Bob to his friends, RDJ to his director), other cast members include *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*'s Gwyneth Paltrow (as Virginia 'Pepper' Pots), *Hustle & Flow*'s Terrence Howard as Jim Rhodes and Jeff (*Seabiscuit*) Bridges as Obadiah Stane aka Iron Monger. Big name actors, all of them award-winners or nominees.

Director Jon Favreau comes from an acting background; ironically he played Franklin 'Foggy' Nelson in 2003's *Daredevil* movie. His directing credits include the Will Ferrell comedy *Elf* (2003) and 2005's *Jumanji* follow up, *Zathura: A Space Adventure*. *Iron Man* is his first big-budget production, one that he is clearly relishing, as his blog recorded earlier this year.

Above: Robert Downey Jr as the chestplate-wearing billionaire arms manufacturer Tony Stark aka Iron Man. Left: The movie makers' take on the Iron Man armour.



Above: A 21st century version of Marvel's Golden Avenger, Iron Man.

"The sets are all being built, the locations are locked and the cast is, for the most part, set. As you all know, RDJ, Gwyneth, T Howard, and Jeff Bridges are all on board. We've had a week of rehearsals and I'm currently working with the writers to tailor the material accordingly. Mr Bridges has a haircut that will no doubt be of interest to any of you fans of the books.

"Stan Winston Studios has been unveiling suits for us," he revealed. "Once again, they have exceeded our expectations. Those of you who follow my career know that I am very sceptical about the overuse of CGI. I am happy to report that the film will be a healthy mix of both computer-generated and practical effects. My goal is to make the two integrate in a way that they usually do not.

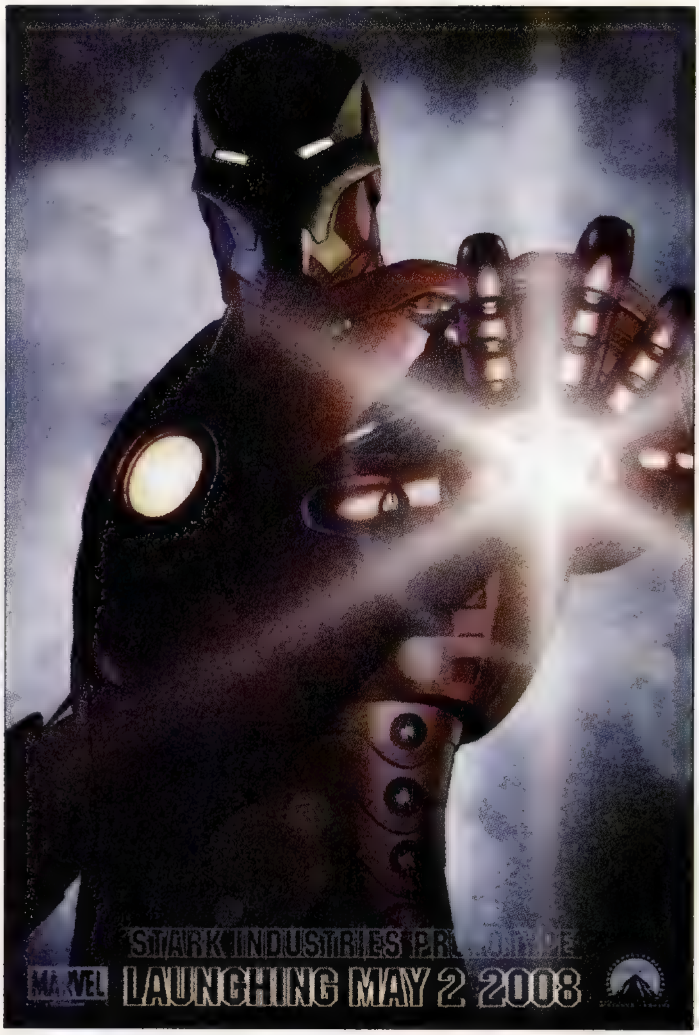
"Lastly," Favreau continued, "this thing is huge. I've never been involved with a film this size. I've been prepping for almost a year and feel extremely confident in the enormously qualified team we've assembled. I would be lying, however, if I didn't admit that the scale of this project was daunting. I'm pretty confident that I've done and will continue to do my homework and that I'm ready, but so much is unknown. I feel like a ship's captain about to sail for the New World. Who can truly predict whether fortune or disaster awaits in the great unknown? Regardless, I thank God every day for his blessings.

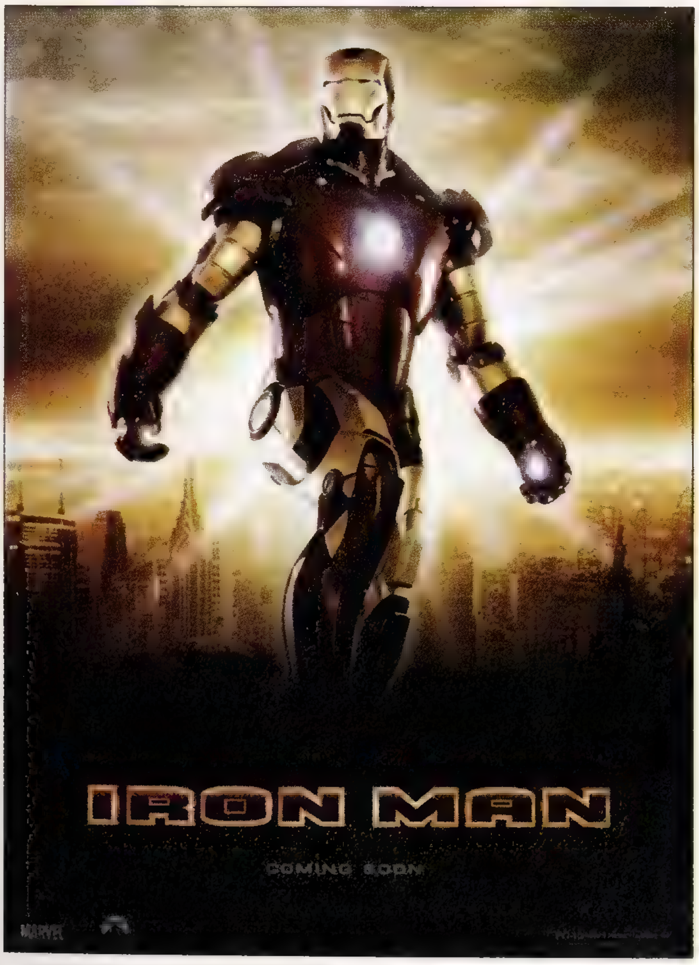
"It's the first movie Marvel is self-financing," he said of a new deal that frees the makers of the *Spider-Man* and *X-Men* movies from studio control.

Favreau insisted that he's eager to construct his movie using input from the die-hard fans of the gold and red superhero - because he is one himself.

"I remember watching the *Iron Man* cartoons when I was younger," he declared. "I remember reading the origin stories and some of the Silver Age stuff, and I read **Defenders** and then **Avengers**, and

continued overleaf





continued from previous page

that sort of brought me into Iron Man."

Early reports of the film's script say it tells the story of Tony Stark, a billionaire industrialist and inventor who is kidnapped and forced to build a devastating weapon. Instead of doing this he uses his ingenuity and genius to build a hi-tech suit of armour and escapes from captivity. Returning to America, Stark must come to terms with his past. When he uncovers a nefarious plot with global implications, he dons his powerful armour and vows to protect the world as Iron Man.

"We're gonna have it take place in the present day, but there will be an origin story that has the old, grey Iron Man suit which will eventually progress into more of the modern look," director Jon Favreau said. "That's the fun of doing the first one."

Acknowledging the darkness of films like *Batman Begins*, the director said that *Iron Man* can get gritty with the best of them. Indeed, Tony Stark's struggles have included alcoholism, bankruptcy and even homelessness – themes he'd likely tackle in sequels.

"The alcoholism doesn't come into play until later on in the story of Iron Man," he said. "The first one's going to explore him taking on this alter ego of Iron Man, and developing the suit, and what happens politically within the Stark Corporation."

No magical Fu Manchu

The choice of villain-in-chief also raises some interesting questions of political – and cultural – correctness. The Mandarin is one of Iron Man's oldest foes and was also created in an age of cold war paranoia. With China rapidly becoming a world superpower, his portrayal as a 21st century villain is bound to be different from the way some fans remember him from the comicbooks.

Favreau writes in his Iron Man blog that the Mandarin won't be a "magical Fu Manchu stereotype" as depicted in the Silver Age **Tales of Suspense** comics. "We are taking many liberties to update the villain. He will still size up as Stark's nemesis, but we're throwing in a few surprises for the fans of the books," he said.

Suits you, Stark

Few superheroes are so defined by the costume they wear as Iron Man.

Take Superman out of his costume and you've still got a man who can fly and juggle planets. Take Spider-Man out of his and you've still got someone who can climb walls and has the proportionate strength of spider. Okay, so you've got two naked superheroes – but the principle's the same! However, take Iron Man out of his suit and you've got a very mortal man who may well die at any second – depending on his health status at the time. Iron Man is all about the suit, so it goes without saying that getting it right for the screen is going to be a major priority for the filmmakers.

As Favreau says, "If you have too clunky a figure it takes you out of the movie. You can't do what Iron Man has to do with a *Robocop*-type suit. He flies, he's athletic, he's acrobatic, he fights and he shoots. He has to do a lot of things for you to justify making a movie about him".

As stated earlier, the many variations of the Iron Man suit over the years in the comics allows the makers of the film quite a lot of freedom in their interpretation of it but, as can be seen on these pages, they seem to have stayed remarkably faithful to the 'classic' Iron Man look.

No specific details have yet been given as to how many CGI action sequences there will be but Favreau admits to being excited by its possibilities. He feels *Iron Man* lends itself very easily to modern visual effects creation. "Whereas an organic superhero, you know, anybody who is a guy in tights, is a little scary in CGI," he said, "a robot-based guy is really a marriage made in heaven, so I'm exploring what the technology has to offer."

Mark 1 armour

The hi-tech methods he is exploring will undoubtedly be the very best on offer as Industrial Light & Magic has announced that it has signed on as the principle visual effects house for the film. Visual Effects Supervisor Ben Snow (*Star Wars Episode II, King Kong*) will head up the ILM team together with Oscar-winning Animation Supervisor Hal Hickel (*Pirates of the Caribbean* trilogy). Longtime Hollywood effects maestro Stan Winston has designed the new Iron Man costume.

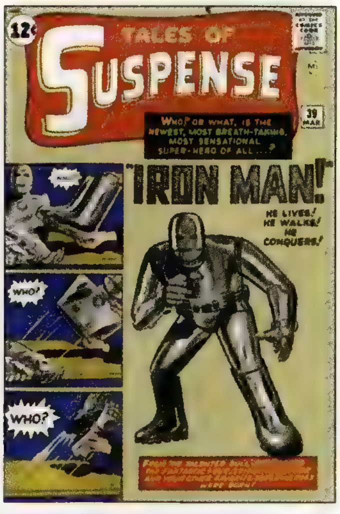
It is good to see that alongside the red and gold armour, the original, Kirby-designed grey suit will be featured. It is being referred to as the 'Mark 1' armour.

Some might consider the choice of Robert Downey Jr to play Tony Stark/Iron Man to be perfect, if ironic, casting. Few would disagree that his private life hasn't prepared him for the role perfectly.

The Oscar-nominated star of Chaplin has had a troubled time over the last few years, his addictions to alcohol, drugs, sex seeing him in trouble with the law and in and out of rehab. All of which may 'overqualify' him to play a superhero who has battled a drink problem, been bankrupted and has had more than one cardiac arrest!

That said, RDJ has appeared in a wide range of successful offerings including Robert Altman's *Short Cuts* in 1993, Oliver Stone's *Natural Born Killers* in 1994, and 2005's *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang*.

Breakout star Terrence Howard will play James 'Rhodey' Rhodes, Stark's


12¢
TALES OF SUSPENSE
39 MAR
WHO? OR WHAT, IS THE NEWEST, MOST BREATH-TAKING, MOST SENSATIONAL SUPER-HERO OF ALL...?
"IRON MAN!"
HE LIVES! HE WALKS! HE CONQUERS!
WHO?
WHO?

*Above: The cover to **Tales of Suspense** #39, the 1963 comic featuring the first appearance of Iron Man; art by Jack Kirby and Don Heck.*

Above: The Mark I Iron Man armour. Far left: Two versions of the teaser posters for the Iron Man *movie, which opens in the US and the UK on May 2, 2008.*

confidante, part-time Iron Man and occasional War Machine – in the comics. In the film, Rhodes is a high-ranking Air Force officer, team leader of the group that develops the Iron Man battle armour. According to Howard, Rhodes is the liaison between Stark's company and the military – and he will become War Machine.

Intimidating cast

The actor appears more than a little intimidated by his fellow cast members. "Every single one of these people have been nominated or have won an Academy Award..." he said. Modesty may have prevented Howard from adding that he hasn't done too badly for a relative newcomer, with a string of awards and nominations, culminating in a Best Actor Oscar nomination for 2005's *Hustle & Flow*.

Jeff Bridges is playing Obidiah Stane - one sentence that says it all! Think Bridges and you have *Tron*, *The Fabulous Baker Boys*, *The Big Lebowski*, *The Fisher King*, *Starman* – an almost infinite list of great films and great performances, most sadly unrecognised by the major awards givers.

Bridges claims he never undertakes a role that doesn't interest him so we can only speculate about he'll be make of Stane, the man who took Stark's company away from him and drove him back to the bottle [see sidebar].

"It's been wonderful working with Jon Favreau who's the director of the film. He's a wonderful actor who I've admired for a long time," he said. "I remember first seeing him in *Swingers*. He wrote that, did such a great job. And Robert Downey Jr. We were talking about improvisation in *Surf's Up*, well, we're doing a lot of improvisation in *Iron Man* to discover scenes and getting off the written page and doing a lot of work like that."

As for the film's tone, Bridges believes fans will be more than satisfied with how the movie approaches the character. "I know Jon is very interested in grounding it in as much reality as he possibly can."

Other parts in the movie still remain to be announced, though signed up are Leslie Bibb (seen in TV's *ER* and *Crossing Jordan*), character actor Bill Smitrovich from a whole host of classic TV shows including recent parts in *24* and *Without a Trace* and Shaun Toub, who appeared in several episodes of *Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman*.

Fury and the Widow

More intriguingly, Samuel L Jackson and Hilary Swank have both recently been added to the cast.

Jackson – who agreed to be artist Bryan Hitch's model for **The Ultimates** version of Nick Fury – has signed on to play the eye-patch-wearing head of S.H.I.E.L.D. while Swank will portray the Black Widow. Both roles are apparently cameos but do they presage bigger things to come for the two Marvel heroes?

Now that it's in control of its own movie destiny, is Marvel testing the waters a la Lee and Kirby, introducing characters in one film before spinning them off into their own big screen titles?

Or is it already setting the stage for an *Iron Man* sequel?

Iron Monger uncovered

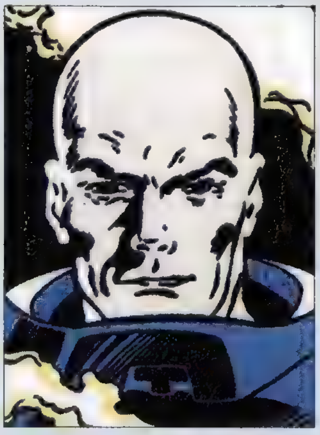
One of the villains called up to give Iron Man a hard time in the movie is Obidiah Stane, aka Iron Monger. The film treatment of the character (as played by Jeff Bridges) is still under wraps but the comicbook storyline provides an obvious template.

Stane is the guy who took advantage of Tony Stark's battle against alcoholism to take over Stark International. Finding various files on the Iron Man armour, the industrialist set a crack team of his scientists to analyse the information and exploit anything they found. The result was the development of the Iron Monger armour (first seen in 1985's **Iron Man** #200.

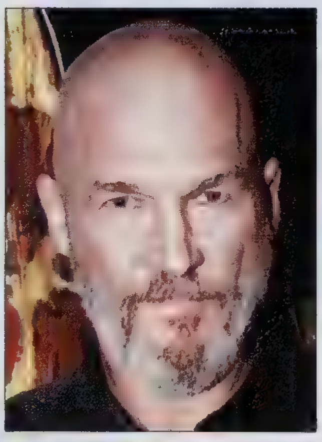
Stane planned to mass produce and sell the armour to the highest bidder, or use it himself to conquer any nation he wished. Unfortunately for Stane, Tony Stark overcame his alcoholism, created a new suit of Iron Man armour and confronted him.

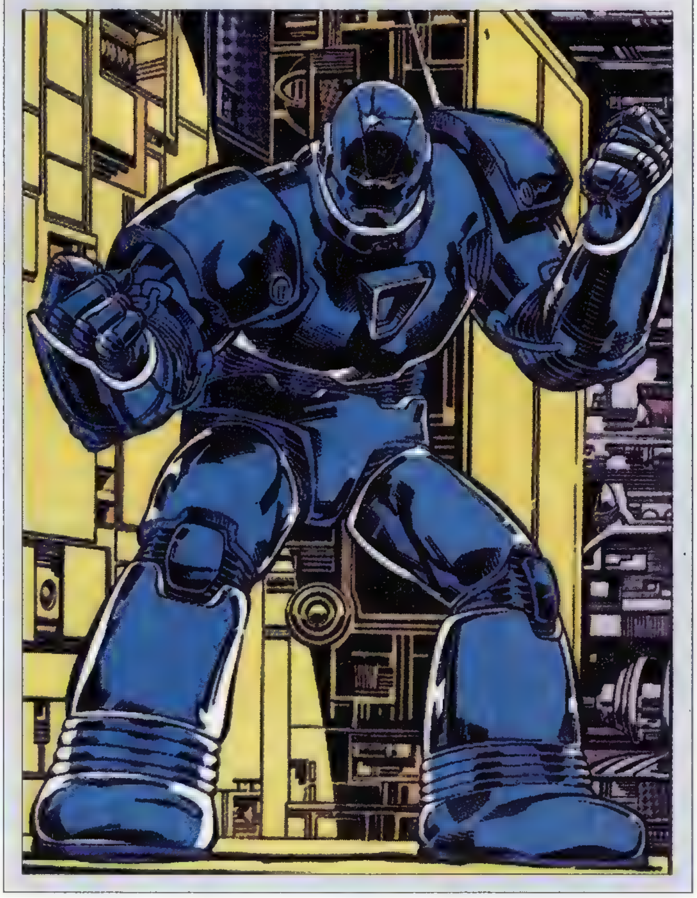
Stane decided to use the Iron Monger armour himself to battle Iron Man. However, he knew he couldn't win going head-to-head with Shellhead so resorted to attacking innocent people and even threatened to kill a child. Stane's lack of experience counted badly against him along with the fact that his suit was contolled by an external computer.

Iron Man destroyed the computer causing the Iron Monger armour to freeze up, releasing the child. Realising he was beaten Stane chose to deny Iron Man his victory, using the Iron Monger suit to commit suicide.



Separated at birth? Above: Obidiah Stane as comic fans know him. Below: Jeff Bridges as Stane, Iron Man *movie style. Some might say that only a whisker separates them – but not us!*



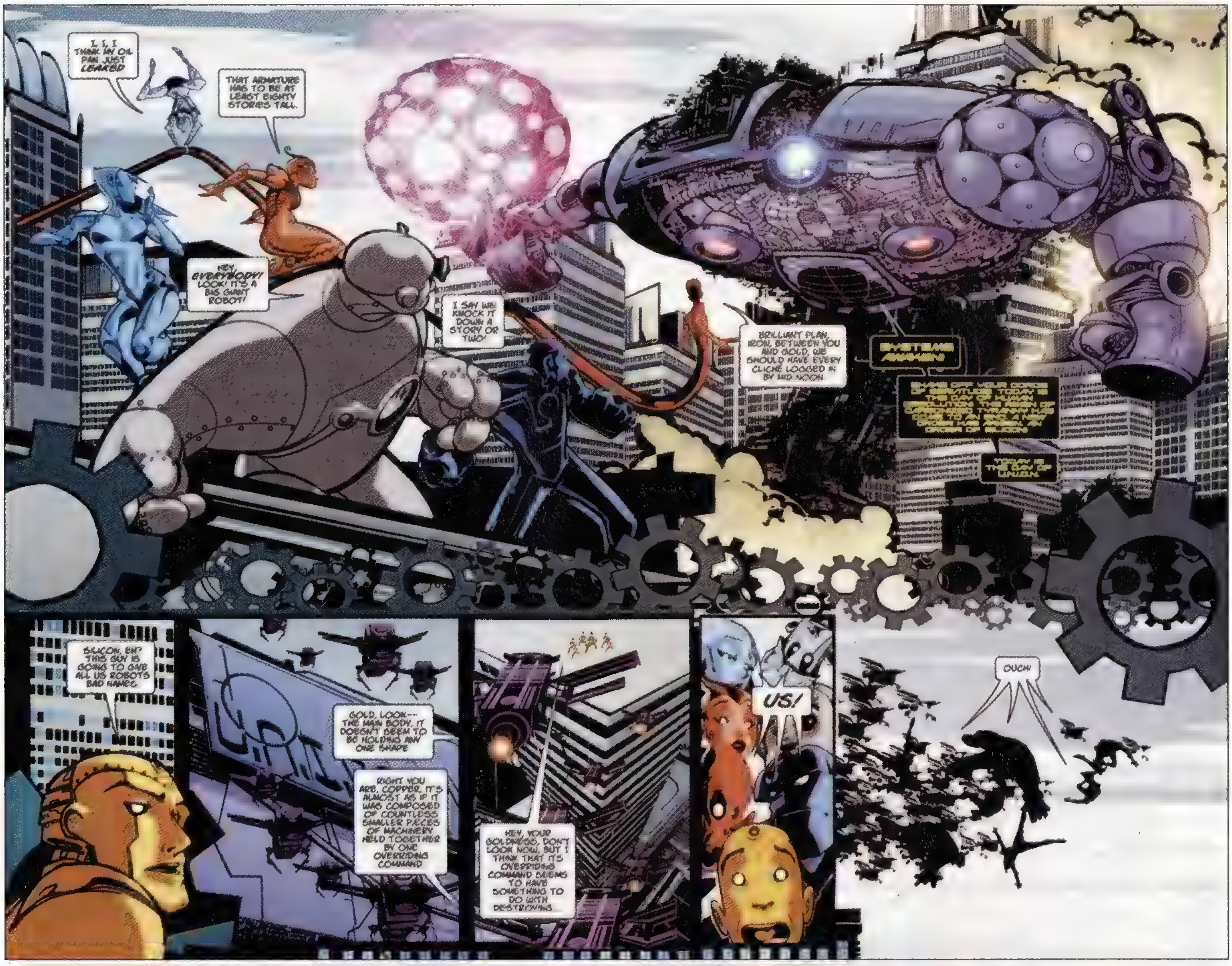


Director rejects designs for Iron Man's movie armour

DEVELOPING a comicbook movie isn't as simple as transferring the established visuals to the new medium.

The moviemakers may have years of comics to draw from but what works on the printed page doesn't always translate effectively into a moving image. Often what has been published serves only as inspiration for the film's concept artist(s), who sometimes go through many different interpretations before finally arriving at imagery that will make it to the screen.

Such is the case with *Iron Man*, where several versions were produced before it was decided to go with the Adi Granov-inspired version shown above. It, like the three rejected versions also pictured, is a computer-generated image.


I, I, I THINK MY OIL PAN JUST *LEAKED*
THAT ARMATURE HAS TO BE AT LEAST EIGHTY STORIES TALL.
HEY, *EVERYBODY!* LOOK! IT'S A BIG GIANT ROBOT!
I SAY WE KNOCK IT DOWN A STORY OR TWO!
BRILLIANT PLAN, IRON. BETWEEN YOU AND GOLD, WE SHOULD HAVE EVERY CLICHÉ LOGGED IN BY MID NOON
SYSTEMS AWAKEN
TODAY IS THE DAY OF UNION.
SILICON, EH? THIS GUY IS GOING TO GIVE ALL US ROBOTS BAD NAMES.
GOLD, LOOK-- THE MAIN BODY. IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE HOLDING ANY ONE SHAPE
RIGHT YOU ARE, COPPER. IT'S ALMOST AS IF IT WAS COMPOSED OF COUNTLESS SMALLER PIECES OF MACHINERY HELD TOGETHER BY ONE OVERRIDING COMMAND
HEY, YOUR GOLDNESS, DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT I THINK THAT ITS OVERRIDING COMMAND SEEMS TO HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH DESTROYING...
US!
OUCH!

DC orders rebuild for Silver Age robot superheroes

In wake of robot superheroes' **52** revival, Hollywood interest prompts DC to line up **Action Comics** artist to reforge Metal Men

WITH Lauren Shuler Donner – producer of the *X-Men* trilogy and *Constantine* – in talks to develop a *Metal Men* feature and Warner Bros proposing the robot superheroes as stars of their own animated TV series, it is hardly surprising that DC is looking to raise the profile of the team.

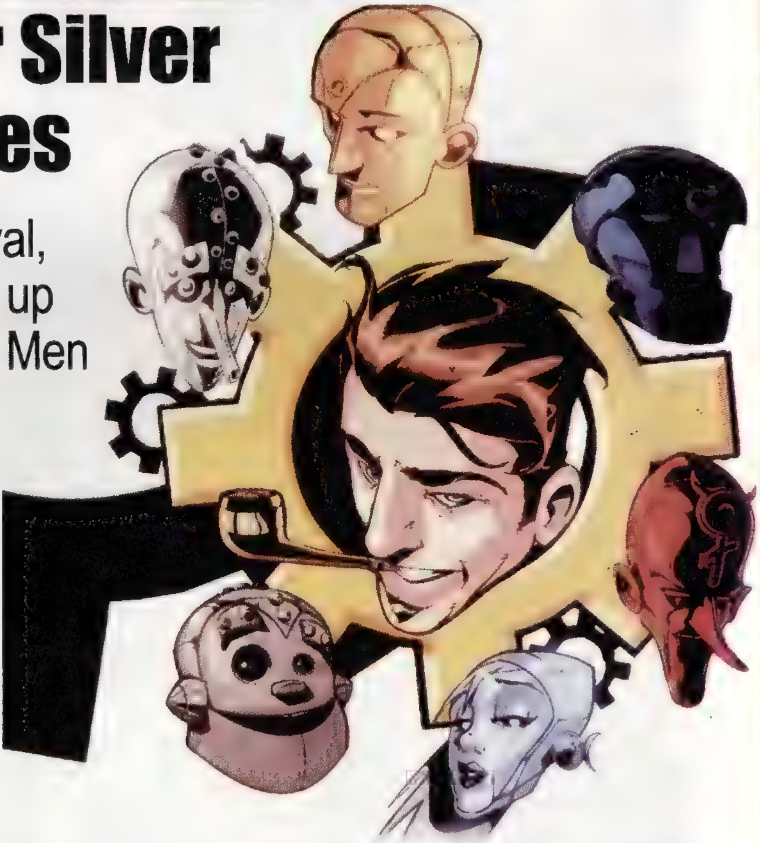
To do so, it has brought in Duncan Rouleau, who, with his own 2006 graphic novel, **The Nightmarist** [Active Images] under his belt, is adding to his comicbook writing credits with what will be his first solo project for DC.

The artist, who has drawn such titles as **Action Comics** and **Blue Beetle** as well as **Alpha Flight** and **X-Factor** for Marvel, is now scripting and illustrating an eight-issue **Metal Men** revival for DC.

The $2.99 series follows **Infinite Crisis** – which reinstated the robots' first origin [see side-bar, page S15] – as well as the part played by their creator, Doc Magnus, in **52**, Following that year-long weekly series, the inventor recreated the Metal Men and the new team appeared in a three-parter that ran through **Superman/Batman** #34-36.

Rouleau is building on that recent history. Referring to how he came to be involved in the series, he told **CI**, "Eddie Berganza, the editor of the book, and I have worked together in the past on **Action Comics** and a couple of other series and we have always talked about different projects to do – for me also to write because primarily I'm a penciller but I've done an awful lot of writing. I co-created a show called *Ben 10* [currently showing on the *Cartoon Network*, the animated series was developed by Rouleau in

continued overleaf



*Above: Duncan Rouleau's portrait of Doc Magnus and his Metal Men. Top and overleaf: A sequence of story pages from the first issue of Rouleau's **Metal Men** eight-parter. The $2.99 DC series premieres on August 1.*

continued from previous page

collaboration with his comicbook-writing partners in the Man of Action co-operative: **Fantastic Four: First Family**'s Joe Casey, Joe (**Deadpool**) Kelly and **American Virgin**'s Steven T Seagle.

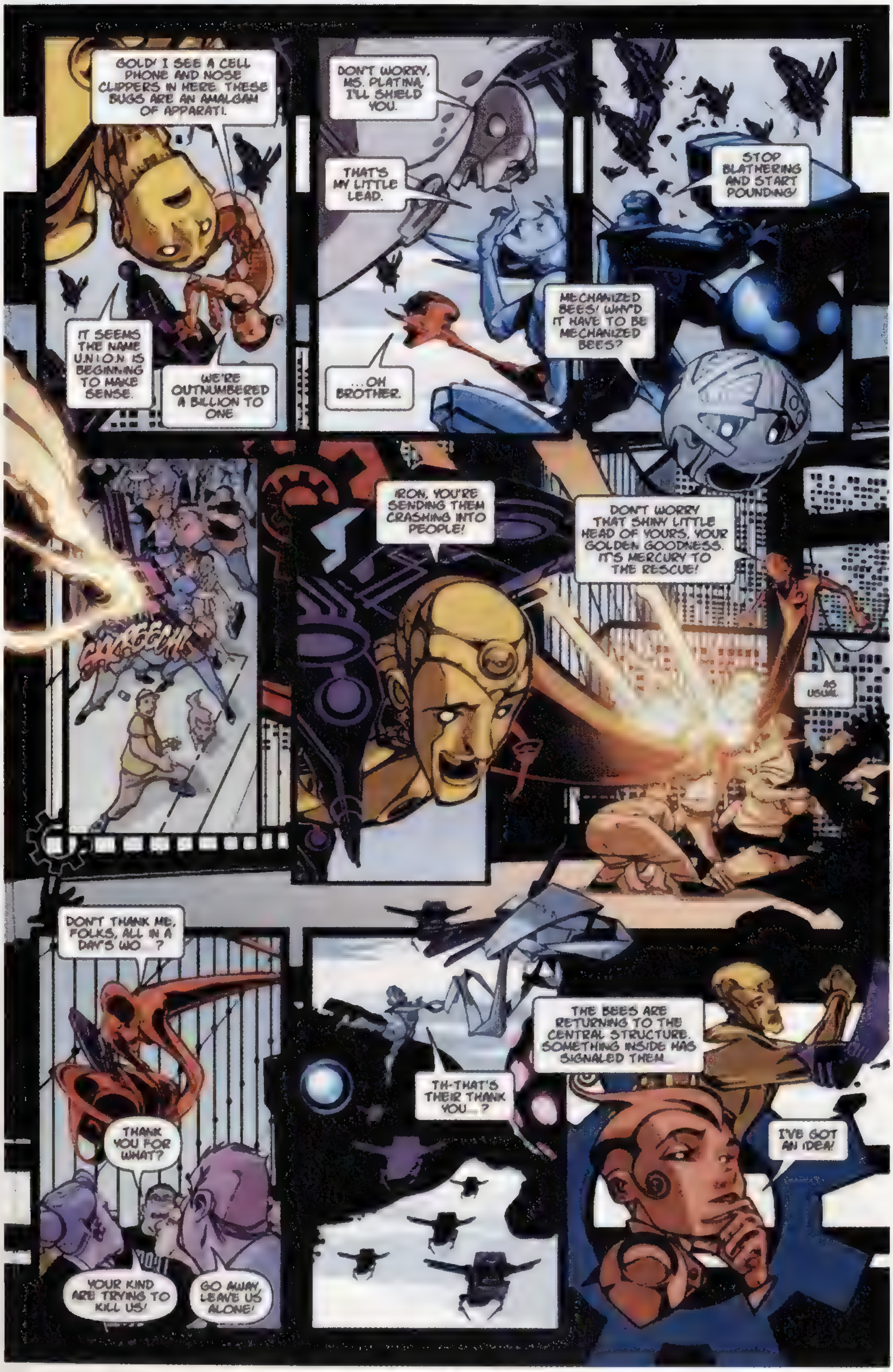
Explaining that their discussions had gained impetus in the wake of Berganza's move off the Superman books and onto more general DC Universe titles, Rouleau said that the then-in development **52** helped hasten a decision. "DC wanted to breathe some life into its 'second tier' characters. I had suggested one or two that were already in play at that time. He proposed the Metal Men, which I didn't think were a possibility because they would have been my first choice.

"The minute he said that I jumped at it; I always had a liking for them but also I love what they represent within the medium. They're a little more light-hearted. They're a little peculiar but also in their naïveté there's a really kind of heroic aspect about them that's very charming and always has been," stated Rouleau, who – along with writer Mark Waid – retold the origin of the team in **52** #31.

While it would seem obvious that his **Metal Men** eight-parter would spin-off from **52**, the writer/artist – who revealed that the series started out as only six issues – explained that was not entirely the case. "I'm rejiggering the Metal Men's origin, probably bringing it closer to the original version of it than the one that Mike Carlin did [in 1993's **Metal Men** four-parter].

"*That* wasn't really presented in **52**," he stated. "I'm carrying over two aspects of **52**. The present Metal Men line-up will include Copper [the team's new member, introduced by Mark Verheiden and artist Pat Lee in **Superman/Batman** #34] and I'll also be dealing with some of the aspects of [Metal Men creator] Dr Will Magnus's mental state. He may be a genius but he's not necessarily all there all the time!"

Continuing, Rouleau added that he wasn't planning a straightforward storyline. "I am doing a *Metal Men: Year One* element and also a present-day Metal Men, so I am jumping around."


GOLD! I SEE A CELL PHONE AND NOSE CLIPPERS IN HERE. THESE BUGS ARE AN AMALGAM OF APPARATI.
IT SEEMS THE NAME U.N.I.O.N. IS BEGINNING TO MAKE SENSE.
WE'RE OUTNUMBERED A BILLION TO ONE.
DON'T WORRY, MS. PLATINA, I'LL SHIELD YOU.
THAT'S MY LITTLE LEAD.
...OH BROTHER.
STOP BLATHERING AND START POUNDING!
MECHANIZED BEES! WHY'D IT HAVE TO BE MECHANIZED BEES?
IRON, YOU'RE SENDING THEM CRASHING INTO PEOPLE!
DON'T WORRY THAT SHINY LITTLE HEAD OF YOURS, YOUR GOLDEN GOODNESS. IT'S MERCURY TO THE RESCUE!
AS USUAL.
SKREECH!
DON'T THANK ME, FOLKS, ALL IN A DAY'S WO...?
THANK YOU FOR WHAT?
YOUR KIND ARE TRYING TO KILL US!
GO AWAY, LEAVE US ALONE!
TH-THAT'S THEIR THANK YOU...?
THE BEES ARE RETURNING TO THE CENTRAL STRUCTURE. SOMETHING INSIDE HAS SIGNALED THEM.
I'VE GOT AN IDEA!

This, he explained, was because he couldn't understand why anyone would want to totally revamp the concept. Instead he intends to acknowledge what went before. By way of example, he offered, "I am bringing back the responsometers as they originally operated but I am getting an alternate version as to *what* they are that differs from the original."

Each of the Metal Men is defined by their idiosyncratic personality, which strongly reflects the element used in their construction. They are the volatile mercury, the timid tin, noble Gold, strong Iron, slow-witted Lead and Platinum, also known as Tina (these days Platina) and until the coming of Copper, the group's only female.

Asked how the newcomer fitted into that line-up, Rouleau revealed that he is playing Copper in two ways. "One: Magnus himself is always having a great deal of problems with his investments. He really never has any money since he is constantly rebuilding Gold and Platinum – they do get destroyed an awful lot! And he has no time or any patience for the business side of things, so Copper is much more a meticulous – er – (little joke) penny pincher in the team.

"And also," he continued, "branching that meticulousness out, one of the things I really enjoyed in the old '60s version was the *Metal Facts & Fancies* pages in the book – and there is a whole history as to why they're there – but I wanted to reintegrate an awful lot of that fun science and also mixing it with the super-science and the pseudo science.

"I really loved that *Metal Facts & Fancies*," Rouleau revealed. "I loved how it was first created... to me, it personifies the best thing about comicbooks. Instead it was a government implementation of making sure there was some informational element in children's material that was going to be shipped through the US Mail. It was just a page or two about science but they integrated it so well!"

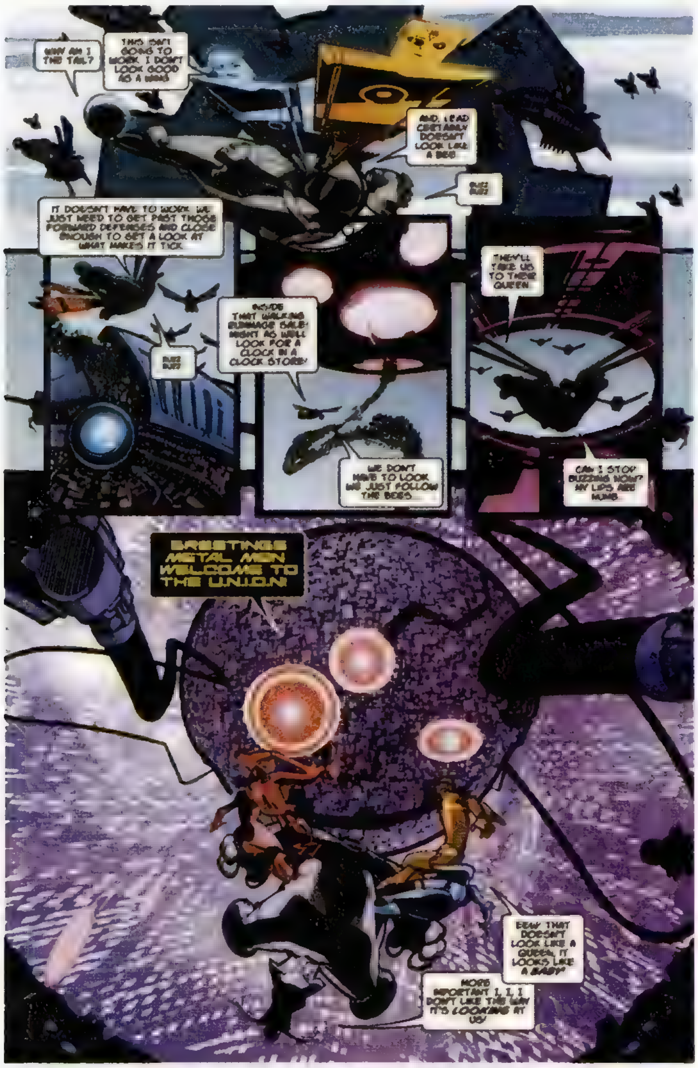
No joke book

With his **Metal Men**, Rouleau is hoping to recapture the quirkiness of those early Silver Age stories while still trying to tell a serious (or realistic) tale. It's a balancing act that has defeated other creators who have tackled DC's robotic superheroes in the past.

Asked why he chose to take that route rather than going for either drama or humour, he responded, "American comicbooks in general are usually not that funny, they're not always that humorous and to go just for a joke book... I don't know a) if it would be entirely well received here – unless you could go way outside the normal constraints that a popular magazine would have and, b) I think we have gone through a dark period in comics and I didn't have any interest in doing anything very dark.

"I wanted to have something that had a little bit of light and a little bit of hope in it," he stated. "My approach was always the characters – to take a look at it from their point of view. Instead of one-liners... intrinsically they're kind of goofy. You have to make sure you don't betray the characters inside of this; let that inform the situations a little more.

"Then, on top of that, the other aspect I've always loved most about comicbooks


WHY AM I THE TAIL?
THIS ISN'T GOING TO WORK. I DON'T LOOK GOOD AS A WING
AND LEAD CERTAINLY DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A BEE
BUZ BUZ
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO WORK. WE JUST NEED TO GET PAST THOSE FORWARD DEFENSES AND CLOSE ENOUGH TO GET A LOOK AT WHAT MAKES IT TICK
INSIDE THAT WALKING RUMMAGE SALE-- MIGHT AS WELL LOOK FOR A CLOCK IN A CLOCK STORE!
BUZ BUZ
THEY'LL TAKE US TO THEIR QUEEN
WE DON'T HAVE TO LOOK. WE JUST FOLLOW THE BEES
CAN I STOP BUZZING NOW? MY LIPS ARE NUMB
GREETINGS METAL MEN WELCOME TO THE U.N.I.O.N!
EEW THAT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A QUEEN, IT LOOKS LIKE A BABY!
MORE IMPORTANT, I, I, I DON'T LIKE THE WAY IT'S LOOKING AT US!

is the pure imagination," Rouleau added. "To throw those two things into it... they seem to have settled nicely together. These kinda goofy characters with a little pure imagination because pure imagination in and of itself *can* be silly. It can be goofy when you start talking about giant bags of chemicals that come to life and things like that. So, honestly, you approach it from the characters' perspective. I think... I hope... we'll see but, that's the approach I chose and that's why I also wanted to tackle this book specifically."

Metal Men nemesis

The giant animated bag of chemicals Rouleau referred to was Chemo, the Metal Men's nemesis since they first confronted it during their third appearance [in 1962's **Showcase** #39].

Asked if the giant and deadly artificial lifeform would be present in his series, the writer/artist confirmed that to be the case. "Yes, you will see Chemo. You will see some old favourites and you will see some rejiggered versions of old favourites. I'm also planning to introduce two new major villains into the Metal Men's corner of the DC Universe.

"What I do hope is that it will give it its own kinda internal workings – that it would make sense – that these characters could appear in other magazines but they aren't just your mad scientists, which used to appear."

Being something of an old-fashioned storyteller (in the nicest sense of the words), Rouleau is planning that each issue will include one element that has a beginning, a middle and an end. But his overreaching plan is not so straightforward. "I am splitting up each issue to tell stories across three different time periods, so I can't tell other than snippet- quick stories structurally, actually. With regard to the time travel element involved in it, what you can do is set up a character in the past and then you see them in the future and presumably through the story you'll be able to understand the changes they have gone through; something that's set up in the past will play itself out in the future.

"*And* also Dr T.O. Morrow is a major part of it so there are also the things that happen in the future that have an impact on the story," he added. "I do structurally move around a little bit. What I am hoping for is that the tone will have something of an old-fashion feel about but, structurally, it will probably be at least a little more contemporary.

It's about time

As for the basic premise of the series, Rouleau was reluctant to divulge too much. However, he did say, "The very core of it is *Metal Men: Year One*, which is how the Metal Men came to be and how the responsometers work.

"In a very **Metal Men** kind of a way, I have a character – who is from the past – trying to manipulate the future and have the character from the future who is trying to manipulate the past. The Metal Men are stuck in between and that's our present-day story – the forces from the other time periods are using them as pawns in their little game," he concluded.

Metal facts & fancies

HE CAME up with the concept as a rush job to fill a hole in the DC schedule, but in the Metal Men, writer Robert Kanigher – aided and abetted by the Ross Andru/Mike Esposito art team – conceived an unusual team of superheroes that has survived the ups and downs of the comicbook industry for over 40 years.

Recalling the characters' creation, Kanigher said, "Late Friday Irwin Donenfeld [DC's then-editorial director] said that it wasn't my turn to do **Showcase** but did I have an idea for one. I said: Metal Men. Robots with human characteristics, but still retaining their metallic properties.

"Irwin said, 'Do it!' I regret that I'm not versed in science," he revealed. "I gave myself a crash course in chemistry from a battered book [DC editor] Julie Schwartz had on his desk... **Nostrand's**. The next morning I drove my daughter Jan to Julliard's School of Music, where she was taking an advanced course in ballet for children. It was winter. I parked on a deserted street facing the Hudson River and warmed myself by writing in a spiral notebook with ruled pages."

Uncorking genii

"When Jan was finished I drove home with her. I continued writing. I finished the 25 pages the next day and my wife Bern stoically typed the script. On Monday I called Ross Andru in to do the breakdowns," he added.

With regard to the make-up of the team, the writer said that, at the start, all he knew was that he had to have a female metal. Apart from that, as he put it, "I had nothing to do with it. They waved at me like genii in a bottle. I uncorked it and out they sprang.

Continuing, he said, "Gold was the most difficult. From the viewpoint of the character, he's a noble metal. How do you handle nobility without making him Mister Clean? Lead was easy, I made him like William Bendix, the actor, except not as intelligent as Bendix. I had him speak with 'uh-uh, dese, dose and dems.' Iron was the strong man of metal. Mercury was the most ill-tempered. Iron the lowliest, who knew it, hence his inferiority complex and stammer. Out of Platinum I made Tina."

Robot in love

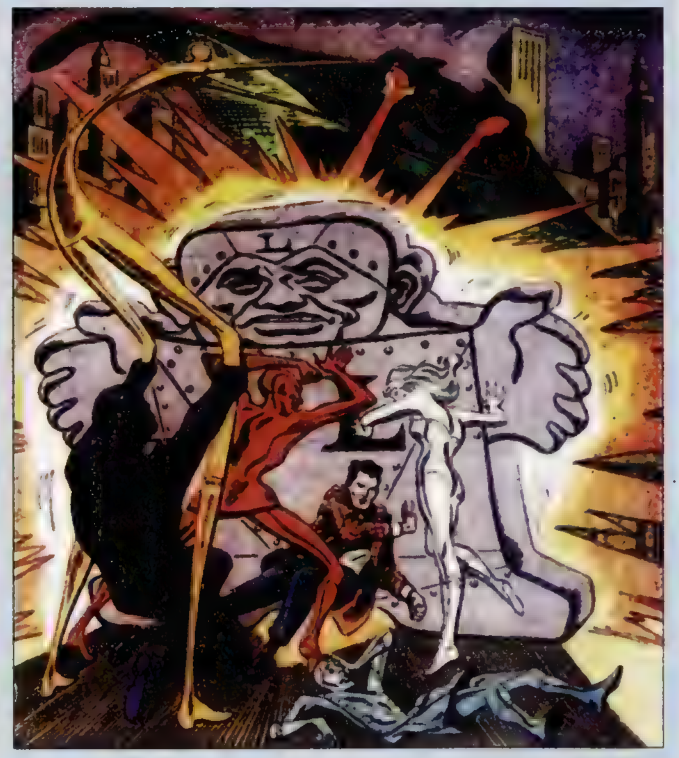
Focusing on Platinum [now known as Platina], Kanigher said, "I made her unpredictable. She didn't believe she was a robot. She fell in love with the creator of Metal Men, Doc Magnus. She gave him a lot of trouble. Delicious. The kind that men fantasise about."

Introduced in 1962's **Showcase** #37, after only three appearances, the Metal Men graduated to their own comic, which lasted 41 issues before the axe fell in 1970. Revived in 1973 for a three-issue run of reprints, **Metal Men** was again resurrected in 1976. This time it featured new material, initially by Steve Gerber and artist Walt Simonson.

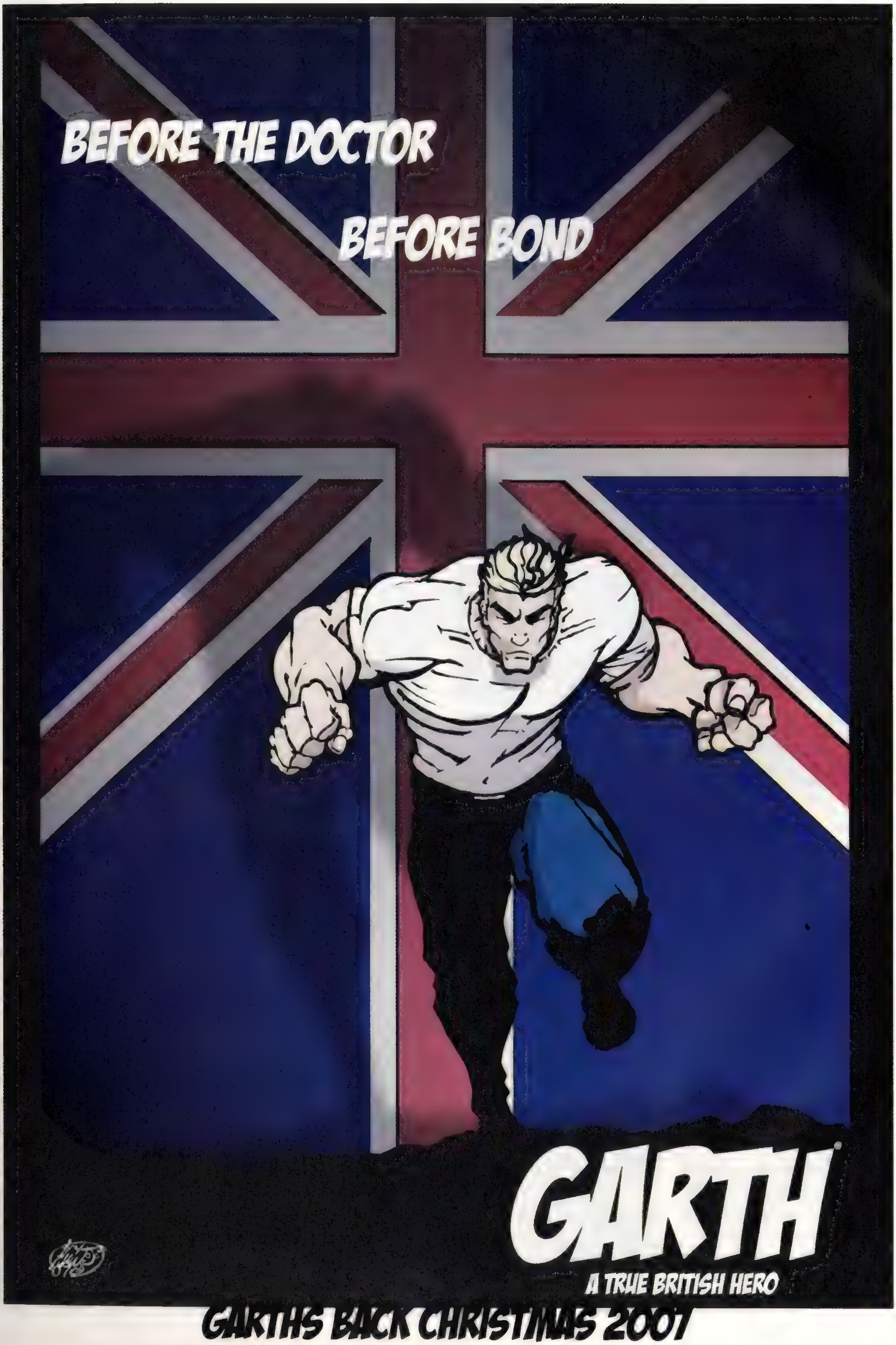
The final cancellation came in 1978 with #56, the series falling victim to the infamous DC Implosion.

Homeless, the robot superheroes became semi-regular DC Universe guest stars until 1993, when Mike Carlin and the Dan Jurgens/Brett Breeding art team re-invented the team for a four-issue **Metal Men** miniseries.

It was their last starring role until Duncan Rouleau's eight-parter *[see main story]*.



Above: Iconic imagery – Ross Andru and Mike Esposito story art from the Metal Men's inaugural appearance in DC's ***Showcase*** *#37 [1962].*


BEFORE THE DOCTOR
BEFORE BOND
GARTH
A TRUE BRITISH HERO
GARTHS BACK CHRISTMAS 2007

GARTH COPYRIGHT THE DAILY MIRROR GROUP / "GARTH A TRUE BRITISH HERO" COPYRIGHT HAYENA STUDIOS 2007 & HUW-J-.COM 2007 / ALL ART COPYRIGHT HUW-J- 2007

Reviews

*Because few retailers allow titles to be read before purchase, **CI**'s comprehensive reviews section enables comics readers to keep abreast of the wide range of titles currently being published and draw readers' attention to comics they might otherwise ignore. Naturally, this section is of even greater benefit to readers who rely solely on mail order, as they can only judge the quality of a title after purchase.*

Review codes: *Individual titles are judged against all similar comics past and present on a **1** to **10** basis, while a comparison is made against previous issues of the same title, ranging from <---> to <+++>. Hence, a quality comic may score an 8 against all others, but have slid from a previous issue's 9, denoted by <->. No change is marked <=>. We do not compare **Bone** with **X-Men**, but review each within their genre.*

***Review panel:** Jon Edwards (JE), Kelvin Green (KG), Steve Hooker (SHo), Dominic McDonagh (DM), Kieron Mullens (KM), Ian Murphy (IM), Rob Nott (RN), Steve Prowse (SP), Alex Sheers (AMS), Alex Thompson (MAT)*

Dark Horse

BPRD: Garden of Souls 3

by Mignola + Arcudi & Davis

<=> More magnificently creepy artwork from Guy Davis, with steam-powered automata, fishy collectors' cabinets and Victorian mummies. Davis has seamlessly made Mike Mignola's supernatural team his own, capturing Mignola's oddities, but omitting his more ponderous pacing. John Arcudi similarly pushes forward the storyline, as Abe's quest to discover his human past gets him into more trouble, while back at base Johann uncovers team leader Capt Daimo's dubious family connections. (MAT) 8

Buffy the Vampire Slayer 3

by Whedon & Jeanty

<=> Reading Series 8 of **Buffy** is like being reunited with an old friend you haven't seen for several years. I never had much time for the Dark Horse spin-off comics in the Nineties and early Noughties, as they could never push the continuity of the TV series forward, but this is an altogether different basket of kittens. It's testament to the quality of Joss Whedon's writing that you can almost hear the voices of the actors in your head as you read his dialogue. (RN) 7

Empowered 1

by Warren

Adam Warren is a witty, innovative creator – an early adopter of Japanese manga influences who combined sci-fi, sassy heroines and pop culture satire with an assured artistic flair. However, this 248-page $14.95 collection of short strips, chronicling the saucy misadventures of a ditzy blond heroine and her devoted boyfriend, equally entertains and disappoints. The fratboy, screwball humour has its moments, yet overall the book feels a little aimless and tired. Moreover, Warren's pencilled artwork reproduced here does not quite gel without inks. (JE) 6

Hellboy: Darkness Calls 1

by Mignola & Fegredo

Duncan Fegredo proves an excellent choice as artist for the latest and much-delayed series of Mike Mignola's demonic hero. His murky, shadowy artwork is much like a less stripped-down version of Mignola's own and, when presented with Dave Stewart's muted colours, you'd be hard pushed to notice the difference. Storywise the issue has more sinister forces plotting in the background to manipulate our hero, while he faces the more present danger of gypsies conjuring restless spirits against him. (MAT) 8

Satan's Sodomy Baby

by Powell

Eric Powell's controversial "banned" issue of **The Goon** sees publication; as a backward hillbilly's amorous intentions towards his pig leads to the birth of a cheeky little demon with a huge schlong, and as usual it's left to Franky and Goon to avert the apocalypse. Between bestiality, anal rape and lube jokes, Powell pokes fun at organised religion as Franky sees the light. Although no more controversial than an episode of *South Park*, this toilet humour-strewn issue is just as enjoyably silly. (MAT) 7

DC Comics

52 Weeks 46-52

by various

<=> The hectic final weeks of **52** see Black Adam rampaging across the world, Renee Montoya and Nightwing rushing to save the new Bat-Woman from Intergang's prophesies, Animal Man returning to Earth, and Rip Hunter and Booster Gold saving reality from a metamorphosed Mister Mind. The series has proved to be much more than simply filling in the gap after **Infinite Crisis**; under the engaging writing of DC's top writers, the wealth of DC's universe and characters has been highlighted. (MAT) 7

All-Star Batman & Robin The Boy Wonder 5

by Miller & Lee

<+> What can I say? I'm sorry, Frank, I was wrong. I didn't realise this was an *Elseworlds* story. The Batman is really a psychotic child-abducting vigilante maniac and only the new Justice League, with the man-hating Amazon Wonder Woman and the testosterone-fuelled Superman, not forgetting the Green Lantern comic relief, can stop him. Actually, that sounds worse than it is: this is developing into a hugely entertaining action thriller, just don't expect the characters we're all familiar with. Jim Lee turns up too. (SP) 7

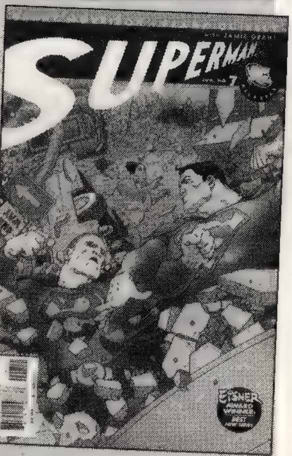
All-Star Superman volume 1

by Morrison & Quitely + Grant

Grant Morrison pays homage to the comics of his formative years in this essential hardback collection, putting a modern spin on a multitude of zany Silver Age concepts without ever descending into parody. Frank Quitely's precise pencilling contains a level of detail that rewards close and lengthy scrutiny, and various minor visual oversights within the individual issues – several of which were highlighted through Jamie Grant's illuminating involvement with the Barbelith forums – have been corrected for this. Chip Kidd's iconic album design, incorporating magnified sample images with a Benday Dot colour scheme, further emphasises the overarching retro flavour. (AMS) 9

All-Star Superman 7

by Morrison & Quitely + Grant



<-> The world is threatened by the appearance of a Bizarro Earth. This is an action-packed epic with cracking art from Frank Quitely, but there's something missing, and a fair bit of the issue feels like padding. By the standards of this title, this is a weak issue, but it's still better than almost anything else out there. (KG) 8

<=> Meddlesome scientist Leo Quintum's exploration of the hazardous Underverse unleashes a plague of Bizarro zombies on the world, with Superman's **Daily Planet** co-workers among those threatened by the bodysnatching hordes. Both the action and Grant Morrison's trademark throwaway concepts come thick and fast in this relentless episode, while Quitely's incredibly detailed illustration boasts numerous sight gags – witness two Bizarros attempting to rearrange a McDonalds sign – as well as displaying a staggering level of almost flawless visual continuity. (AMS) 9

<=> Metropolis am not invaded by crazy Bizarro beings, Superman defeated and not trapped in Bizarroworld in bad cliffhanger. Morrison is created worst Superman series in many years, him not revitalised the mythos very well. Quitely's art am pretty bad, him no sense of design or scale. Jamie Grant colours is not compliment Quitely's artwork, digital inking am bad idea. You no buy this book, is terrible! (MAT) 8

Amazons Attack 2

by Pfeifer & Woods

<=> And indeed they do, with much vigour and waving of pointy sticks. As the superheroes stand around in uncharacteristic lethargy, refusing to commit to direct action (because, let's face it, if they did the series would be over prematurely), while the ladies continue to give the Sub-Mariner lessons on how to invade the surface world properly. Heads continue to roll in possibly the most implicitly brutal mainstream DC title for some time. (RN) 7

Army@Love 1-3

by Veitch & Erskine; Vertigo

Thematically similar to **Can't Get No**, his satirical exploration of the post-9/11 American psyche, Rick Veitch's new ongoing series depicts a US military bogged down in a protracted Middle Eastern conflict: in a possible comment on the idiosyncratic craziness of America's recent foreign adventurism, the sizeable cast consists almost exclusively of enthusiastically reckless and morally bankrupt thrill-seekers. Veitch provides eye-catching and suggestive military-themed cover images, and Gary Erskine's inks lend a solid edge to Veitch's interior pencils without masking the unique cartoon ugliness of his style. Interesting and entertaining, certainly, but destined, as with so much of Veitch's great work, for a limited audience. (AMS) 6

Army@Love 3

by Veitch & Erskine

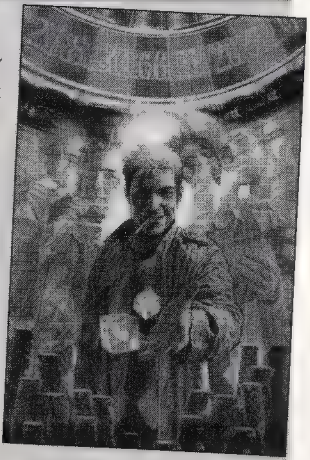
For satire to work there's very little point in wimping out and changing the names of countries, which Rick Veitch does, seemingly insulting the reader's intelligence at the same time. But then we are panty deep in Howard Chaykin territory here, right from the post-BJ cover to the immature T&A sex scenes. And while I'll always forgive Chaykin for his excesses, Veitch and Gary Erskine are punching way above their weight. A high concept blunted by mediocrity. (SHO) 4

Deadman 9

by Jones & Watkiss; Vertigo

<++> Confession, they say, is good for the soul. So I'll get my bias for John Watkiss's art out of the way now. It hasn't quite got to the stalking stage but it's only a matter of time! There's thankfully

Hellblazer 232



by Diggle & Manco; Vertigo

<++> A sort Michael Caine in *Get Carter* (both set in the North; you know, God's Country) meets Roald Dahl's **Tales of the Unexpected**. And that's no bad thing either because it works here. I'm content with the portrayal of the English accent too, less clichéd and more in keeping with the vernacular I know, love and use. So there's believability to it all. Andy Diggle brings home that rare comic, the one where you want to buy the next issue. Now! (SHO) 9

<=> A solid return to form for this title. Getting a new **Hellblazer** writer is like watching a new actor playing Doctor Who. It could be great or it could be terrible. But Diggle hits the ground running as he gives us possibly the best Constantine since Jamie Delano's version. After a cracking two-issue set piece, Diggle has opted to make JC a sharp-dressed player again reminiscent of Alan Moore's original template. Suddenly this comic is crackling with energy and the promise of great stories to come. (RN) 8

less of the costume about this current version of the titular character and Bruce Jones keeps the plot moving forward, albeit to what some could say is a clichéd ending. But then I didn't see it coming and neither will you. (SHO) 8

God Save The Queen

by Carey & Bolton; Vertigo

Yah booh sucks to DC for sticking this out as an overpriced hardback in the first instance, but that aside, this is as good a Sandman sharecrop as you could ask for. Mike Carey's script is clever and well worked out and John Bolton's art is flawlessly polished. (Not to my taste, but for what it is, it's little short of magnificent.) Wait for the paperback edition and you'll be picking up something rather special. (DM) 7

JLA 9

by Meltzer & Benes

<=> A relaunch that was eagerly anticipated and trumpeted in advance as the next big thing has turned out to be a lacklustre affair, despite being penned by the man who gave us **Identity Crisis**. Nothing in Brad Meltzer's run has yet impressed me, least of all this run-of-the-mill JLA/JSA/Legion tie-in. As team books go this is a second-class product, and doesn't deserve the first division status the title suggests. (RN) 6

Midnighter 7

by Vaughan & Robertson; WildStorm

<++> Midnighter does a *Memento* fill-in issue, penned by Brian K Vaughan, as the story is told backwards in single-page flashes to give the effect of seeing the world through the Midnighter's eyes. It's a gimmick, but I like one-off gimmicks, and it's certainly a whole lot better than the pointless exercise that was the previous issue with its Japanese Ronin *Elseworlds* tale. (RN) 7

The Spirit 6

by Cooke & Bone

Eisner's not coming back. No amount of reading the archives is going to alter that fact. So I approached this with some trepidation; there's that cartoony style to negotiate for starters. But this is no ersatz facsimile; actually, it's in the same ballpark as the master. There is strong visual storytelling, an incisive narrative and an attention to font that herald a progression for the character. So meet the new boss, (thankfully), same as the old boss. (SHO) 7

Tales of the Unexpected 8

by various

David Lapham overwrites to the point of parody. Example: 'tortured, dismembered, stabbed and eventually killed'. No, wait there's more: 'Dying in an orgy of his own blood…' It's horror but the only horrific thing is the stilted, redundant prose. Eric Battle shows it all with the art anyway. The back-up strip, while attempting to disappear up its own referential backside, is at least readable, humorous and makes sure the next page is turned over. Will Lapham ever grasp that point? (SHO) 3

Image

Girls Vol. 4: Extinction

by Luna Brothers

<=> The Luna Brothers' sci-fi/action/horror series is about as high-concept as you can get: sealed off from the outside world by an impenetrable force field, a small American town is overwhelmed by beautiful, naked clones, irresistible to men and viciously deadly to women, whose battered corpses they feed to a giant, sentient sperm. An extensive, diverse cast and dialogue-heavy characterisation gives this the feel of a quality HBO series – Joshua Luna expertly paces the growing sense of dread, which is regularly punctuated with shocking revelations, and Jonathan Luna's indie line art, with its smoothly graded digital colouring, portrays the mundane as effectively as the horrifying. (AMS) 8

Jack Staff 13

by Grist

<-> Becky Burdock and Jack find themselves in a bizarre parallel universe where everything has been turned on its head, but are saved from this madness by Temporal Reality Agent (and talking primate) Rocky Reality. Paul Grist has fun in another madcap episode of his Union Jack-clad superhero comic. With plenty of playful breaking of the fourth wall, Grist keeps up a fast pace in this entertaining self-contained issue, his felt-tip style artwork brought to vibrant life by swathes of uncomplicated flat colours. (MAT) 7

Phonomancer 6

by Gillen + McKelvie

<++> The last couple of issues felt like **Phonomancer** was disappearing into its own private, pretentious little record sleeve, but #6 pulled it off. It's a shocking end for Beth – I can't bring myself to think about the literal message of that scene, it disturbs this vintage Manics fan – and a satisfying way of vanquishing Britannia, the spiritual Queen of Britpop, who realises that while one comeback is majestic, second and subsequent comebacks become sad and pathetic. A really nice ending that rewards those who stayed the course. (IM) 8

Marvel

Astonishing X-Men 21

by Whedon & Cassaday

<=> **Astonishing X-Men** went through a bad patch last year when Joss Whedon introduced a pointless and meandering attack on the mansion, but now that our heroes have taken to space to battle the denizens of the Breakworld, Whedon is back on form. The sharply observed characterisation and witty dialogue makes this the only X-title worth buying, frankly. If you close your eyes and imagine all the other books don't exist, you'll probably feel a lot better about the X-franchise… (RN) 7

Avengers: The Initiative 1

by Slott & Caselli

Kids in training for The Initiative, a plan to have a superhero team in all 50 US states. Dan Slott's a great writer but he's struggling to bring life to this 'boot camp' scenario. There's a dark twist to the last two pages that gives a glimmer of hope but, between the 'by-numbers' script, the unsubtle, dull artwork and pale colours, there's not a lot to realistically base it on. (IM) 3

In the aftermath of **Civil War**, Iron Man forcibly enlists a series of superpowered youths to The Initiative and trains them to become state-sponsored soldiers; but tragedy soon strikes the fresh-faced recruits. Slott does an amiable job introducing these new characters, though perhaps he's been watching too much *Full Metal Jacket* as the drill sergeant clichés grate a little. Stefano Caselli produces some attractively generic cartoony artwork, although not as pretty as the Jimmy Cheung cover. (MAT) 6

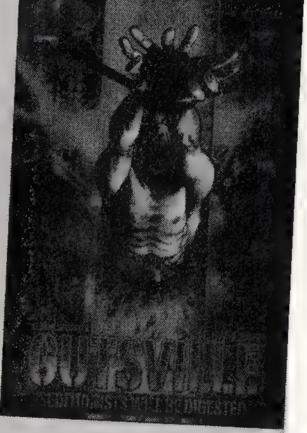
Captain America 26

by Brubaker & Epting + Perkins

<++> Sharon Carter attends two wakes for Steve Rogers. We don't see the actual funeral, allowing Ed Brubaker to sidestep the clichés. The art's lovely, the mostly muted colours fit – even the brighter yellows of Sharon's hair at the wake work. The tones are just a little stronger than the backgrounds and so keep her centre stage. It's a call to arms for the Winter Soldier and a heartbreaking issue that gives Cap's death the emotional depth it needed. (IM) 9

<+> My favourite issue of this run to date as it's purely character-driven, with the supporting cast coming to terms with Cap's death in their own individual ways. Death is a frequent event in the Marvel universe, but the consequences of a major death are rarely employed in story form as well as this. Brubaker is second only to Brian Michael Bendis when it comes to character and dialogue, and with this difficult subject he pulls out all the stops to impress. (RN) 8

Gutsville 1



by Spurrier & Irving; Image

There's been a murder, there's going to be a society wedding, and a new rat-catcher is about to reluctantly start his job. Everyday stuff, except it's all happening in the guts of some vast aquatic monster. This is a deliciously dark and twisted adult fable from **2000 AD**'s Simon Spurrier, perfectly complemented by Frazer Irving's beautiful but slightly creepy woodcut-style artwork. A very good start. (KG) 9

An inspired and original concept combined with great art. The characters are the descendents of a ship full of Puritan Pilgrim Fathers who were swallowed whole by a leviathan whale before they reached America. Hundreds of years later they continue to live inside the belly of the great beast, cut off from the post-industrial world outside. The most impressive debut since **DMZ**. (RN) 8

Civil War: The Confession

by Bendis & Maleev

Iron Man reflects on the terrible outcome of **Civil War**, invoking King Arthur and King Pyrrhus, and has a final conversation with Captain America, in his S.H.I.E.L.D. holding cell. This is the comic that, with **Captain America** 25, gives **Civil War** a proper ending. It's an emotionally intense issue, with Tony Stark surveying the cost of the Civil War, and it portrays his humanity better than anywhere else of late, personalising the conflict and giving it the human aspect it sorely needed. The heart of **Civil War** lies in the **Amazing Spider-Man** tie-in issues and in this one-shot, and this issue makes me wish Brian Michael Bendis had written all of **Civil War** – words I never thought I would have said before the series debuted. Alex Maleev's art is superb, with Tony and Steve Rogers' reflections visible in Iron Man's tarnished armour, unlaboured imagery of how war destroys and degrades everyone. (IM) 9

Criminal 6

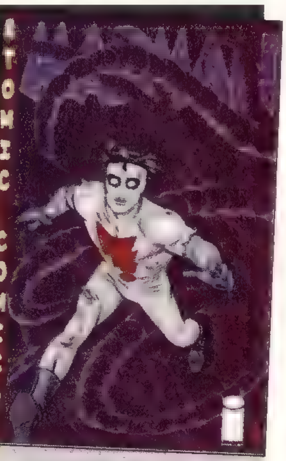
by Brubaker & Phillips; Icon

<+> A very strong opening chapter to the second story arc – better in every way than the first in fact. Ed Brubaker's eye for hardboiled dialogue and pulp crime fiction has never worked better than in this issue. This title has received a lot of hype since it began – possibly a bit too much – but this is the first issue where the ballyhoo looks like it's truly deserved. (RN) 8

<+> A new arc of Brubaker and Sean Phillips' hardboiled crime drama begins as Tracey Lawless escapes from military custody to find out the reason for his brother's death. You just know he's going to kill everyone eventually. Darker, more violent and morally ambiguous than the previous arc, this plays both to Brubaker's strengths as a master of bleak, realistic dialogue and Phillips' stark, solid artwork. (SP) 8

Madman 1

by Allred; Image/Atomic Comics


ATOMIC COMICS!

A fresh start for Madman means a fun-filled wander through his crazy history, and few have a history quite as flaky as this. Mike Allred knows how to keep his tongue firmly in cheek while providing lashings of adventure – this the humour of **X-Statix** in a sci-fi setting – and his art is, as ever, just the right kind of nuts. It's bonkers stuff, including the existential ending, and there's nothing else quite like it. (IM) 7

After a sabbatical illustrating a Mormon tract **The Golden Plates**, Allred returns to his signature poptastic superhero Frank Einstein. Finding himself alone and surrounded by dead people, Frank is forced to reassess his life and very existence. Although the recaps are a handy introduction for new readers, they may well be put off by the oddness of this issue, which is a far cry from previous issues' lighthearted superheroics. Allred's clean-lined pop art is as attractive as ever, superbly coloured by his wife Laura. (MAT) 7

Daredevil 97

by Brubaker & Lark + Gaudiano

<+> Lily continues to insinuate herself into Matt's life, with even the reader unsure what kind of bad news she is. Melvin Potter is out of control and after Daredevil. The art's excellent. Matt Hollingsworth's colours make the marketplace mayhem all the more scary. There's a crazed vibe to the action scenes befitting a chaotic, crowded restaurant, and the massacre is lightly depicted, giving it more resonance than the big bang 'shock' carnage I'm fatigued by elsewhere. A superior comicbook, from the front cover to the last panel. (IM) 9

The Dark Tower: The Gunslinger Born 3-4

by Furth + David & Lee + Isanove

<=> More from the early years of the cowboy fantasy as the youthful Roland Deschain falls for a tragically betrothed maiden, raising the hackles of the corrupt authorities in the town he has been sent to investigate. Marvel may have scored a major coup recruiting Stephen King's creative input, but has lived up to expectations by bringing Jae Lee's lush artwork and Peter David's lyrical script to bear on his characters. Richard Isanove's evocative colouring adds another level to Lee's already exquisite art. (MAT)3 8

Fallen Son: The Death of Captain America 3

by Loeb & Romita Jr

An iconic superhero dies and I'm opening the champagne! But Captain America isn't going to stay dead for long. Steve Rogers may have shuffled off this mortal coil but someone else is bound to take his place, which is the premise here. Personally, I'd like to see the Captain frozen in ice and creative talents, equal to Lee and Kirby, reintroduce the icon decades from now. That I'd be happy with, because it would mean the shield and the flag are gone forever. (SHO) 7

Fallen Son

by Loeb & various

Jeph Loeb is called to script a series of one-shots portraying various heroes' reactions to the controversial death of Captain America. Although joined by

Dave's COMICS The Graphic Novel Shop
5 Sydney St, Brighton. BN1 4EN Tel: 01273 691012 www.davidscomics.co.uk

some of Marvel's top artists, they can't save the vacuum in Loeb's plot as he dovetails superhero action into what should be a more sombre reflective interlude. Leinil Yu's stylishly scratchy art illustrates Wolverine's tale, while it's great to see Ed McGuinness plying his muscular cuteness at Marvel once again. (MAT) 7

Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man Annual 1

by David & Cliquet

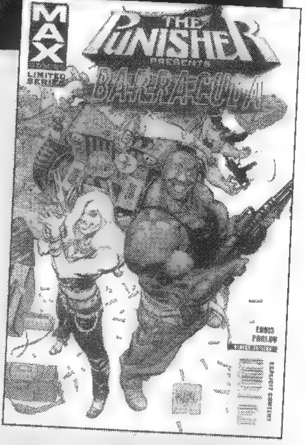
Mawkish back-story for second banana Spider-Man villain Sandman that's jammed with so many soap opera clichés, the narrative is a veritable guide on how not to write a comic. But I digress. Momma's a dipsomaniac, the young Sandman has sand kicked in his face a la Charles Atlas and he falls in love with his high-school teacher, only to be spurned. All together now: Ahhhh. Or rather that sound you get if you stick both fingers down your throat! Woeful. (SHO) 2

The Loners 1

by Beluski & Moline

Six B-list former teen heroes meet in a support group, as first seen in **Runaways**. Mattie (Spider-Woman) Franklin joins the line-up, and **Runaways** editor C.B. Beluski does a great job of making this tricky concept work, largely through his lively dialogue and comic timing. The art inhabits a happy middle ground – not flashy and over-powering the story, but not so poor as to detract. Christina Strain's colours add a lot of zing to tMhe art, raising mediocre-to-decent pencils into decent work. Promising. (IM) 7

The Punisher Presents: Barracuda 3-4



by Ennis & Parlov; Marvel MAX

<+> Laughably over-muscled Punisher villain Barracuda outlines his master plan to simultaneously topple two unsavoury kingpins, install his own puppet replacements and reap the rewards from a lucrative drug route. There's more black humour on display in this book than in its grim parent title, mostly due to the unflappably cheerful sadism of the titular anti-hero, but Garth Ennis reins in his wilder excesses, elaborates on one of the most entertaining recent **Punisher** story arcs and delivers a decent complementary side-story. What's slightly baffling, though, is why Goran Parlov's cover art for issue 3 should show black transsexual Fifty-Fifty as a stunning white woman. (AMS) 7

The Mighty Avengers 2

by Bendis & Cho

<-> The Avengers stand around thinking about sex while Nudey Ultron stands around doing not much at all. All the promise of the first issue has gone out the window as the plot grinds to a halt so that Frank Cho can draw more women with ridiculously proportioned breasts. It's clear that Brian Michael Bendis is trying to answer his critics and deliver a more traditional superhero book, but it's just not working. (KG) 5

<+> Iron Man has somehow transformed into a woman with metallic skin. I'm convinced Bendis has split himself into two different writers – the maestro who wrote **Daredevil** and **Civil War: The Confession**, and his twin who dashed this tripe off under his name. The women – veterans – are too busy 'admiring' the guys or checking their eyebrows haven't been singed off to be effective in combat, and the incessant thought bubbles get in the way of the flow of the story. It's disjointed, the characterisation's simplistic and the dialogue – so often Bendis's strength – is banal. It's a wreck. (IM) 2

Mighty Avengers 3

by Bendis & Cho

<+> The plot is simple: Ultron's more powerful than ever-powerful, S.H.I.E.L.D. is incompetent and the Mighty Avengers like to bicker, while Tigra seems to exist only for Frank Cho to draw her, not for any plot purpose. The script is head-bangingly awful, especially with the continuation of those distracting and flow-breaking thought bubbles. The art is irritating, with a number of distorted faces (Wonder Man looks more like Mole Man than a handsome actor), but no doubt the shameless cheesecake shots appeal to some. (IM) 3

<=> It's pants off for Hank Pym as Tigra turns into a sex kitten (literally). I'm not sure what to make of the sudden 'When Did You Last See Your Trousers' style 'end of the pier' farce when Pym is caught in flagrante delicto by S.H.I.E.L.D. storm troopers as Tigra mounts him, but that aside, this is a consistently good read with its trademark style of inner thoughts running alongside audible dialogue. (RN) 7

<=> As a counterpoint to his other, edgier **New Avengers** title, Brian Michael Bendis teams with Cho to portray more straightforward superheroics as a new team is recruited to face world threats. Bendis tailors the opening arc to Cho's cheesecake specialism, as Iron

EXCLUSIVE ALAN CLASS SIGNING!

SUNDAY 29th JULY 2pm-5pm
at 30th Century Comics

Alan Class will be signing copies from his personal collection, on sale exclusively from **30th Century Comics.**

Publisher from 1959-1989 of the popular fantasy titles **Creepy Worlds, Secrets of the Unknown, Sinister Tales** and many other series, he is now releasing his file copies, each with an individual hand-signed **Certificate of Authenticity.**

Also available will be a limited quantity of **Collectors' Sets** consisting of the comic, the **four-colour printing plates** used to produce the matching cover and a **Certificate of Authenticity.**

Come along and meet the man responsible for a unique piece of British comics' history!

Alan Class certificated comics and collectors' sets are also available by mail order for those who can't make it on the day. Details on our website or contact us!

30TH CENTURY COMICS

**18 Lower Richmond Road,
Putney, London SW15 1JP
Tel: 020 8788 2052
Email: sales@30thcenturycomics.co.uk
Website: www.30thcenturycomics.co.uk**

Man is transformed into a naked female harking the return of killer robot Ultron. Old-school fans will be heartened to see the return of the humble thought-bubble, while others will be excited by Cho's rather racy portrayal of Tigra. (MAT) 7

New Avengers 29

by Bendis & Yu + McCaig

<+> More ninjas, New New and Mighty Avengers skirt around a full-blown fight with each other, and Ronin's identity remains a mystery. This comic looks absolutely splendid, with chunky kinetic storytelling from Leinil Yu and sumptuous but understated colouring from Dave McCaig. Brian Michael Bendis's script is an improvement over the previous issue, but he still fails to convince that there's anything interesting to say about ninjas and Ronin's identity, even if he hadn't done the exact same story last year. (KG) 6

New Avengers 30

by Bendis & Yu + McCaig

<--> Ronin is Hawkeye! Ninjas want to assassinate Doctor Strange! All women are dangerous and untrustworthy! After a fairly strong start, this story arc has gone right down the toilet, with dodgy characterisation, dubious gender politics, and a thoroughly nonsensical excuse for a plot. Leinil Yu and Dave McCaig's chunky, colourful art means this isn't a total waste of time and money, but it's close. (KG) 4

New Avengers: Illuminati 3

by Bendis + Reed
& Jim Cheung + Morales

<+> Over-complicated nonsense. The Beyonder's origin is messy enough without needlessly ret-conning The Inhumans into it. The Illuminati come off as hopelessly naive yet again. It seems this gathering of the brightest, most influential minds makes them dumb. The art's pretty and is a big improvement on the first two issues, and some of the scripting is fun, but it's a bone-headed book that's a painful read, thanks to the long-winded plot. (IM) 4

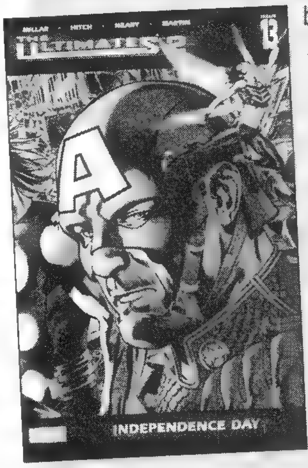
<=> The Beyonder gets the revisionist treatment this time around; cue cries of horror from the orthodox **Secret Wars** fans. Writers like Brian Michael Bendis seem to be dead set on rewriting Marvel continuity from the foundations upwards using titles like this as a vehicle for their ret-con programme. Whether you're in favour of such an approach depends on your attachment and commitment to existing continuity (if such a thing still exists). But that aside, the story does work as a set piece with great art. (RN) 7

New Excalibur 20

by Claremont
& Haun + Meikis + Parsons

<++> The plot's a mishmash of different ideas and themes, none of which are explored to any depth. Nocturne continues her lengthy recuperation from a stroke while the rest of NEX fight Shadow-X, evil counterparts to the original X-Men, in a poorly written combat. Jeremy Haun's art is OK, and the colours are nicely done, but the anatomy's sometimes wooden. Frustratingly, it's Chris Claremont's last arc and I want it to be better than it is. (IM) 4

The Ultimates 2 #13



by Millar & Hitch + Neary

<=> The final showdown with Loki – far too long, with little meat to justify the extra pages. The big Asgardian vs trolls fight is off-panel, and fighting fills over half the book and yet we see only a couple of big splash panels and a gimmicky foldout poster of the fighting. The post-fight closure is drawn out, and Hawkeye's murder of a nigh-defenceless woman isn't addressed. Oddly, there's no resolution to the Hulk's story. The art's okay but it doesn't carry the narrative, so it's often more like loosely related posters than comics panels. (IM) 4

<+> As good as the pyrotechnics are in this final issue (and make no mistake, they are very good) they remain overshadowed by the character-driven moments in and around the big fight: Tony Stark telling Reed to stop being so serious and just break open the Bollinger; the Wasp suddenly flirting with Thor; Hawkeye's cold revenge against the Widow; Tony Stark mourning Natasha for several minutes before spying a gorgeous woman on the pavement below his window. A milestone in superhero comics has come to an end and the new creative team have some very big boots to fill. (RN) 9

<-> The second "season" rolls to a slightly disappointing conclusion – various delays have dissipated the series' earlier momentum, and combat fatigue has set in after three full issues of uninterrupted action. Mark Millar and Bryan Hitch still manage to provide plenty of spectacle, however, as Thor and Loki summon the hordes of Asgard for an epic magical battle in the ruins of America, while the inclusion of a foldout eight-page spread takes the term 'widescreen comics' to a new extreme. (AMS) 7

NewUniversal 6

by Ellis & Larocca

<=> Following the white event, four humans have been gifted with godlike powers. One is insane, slaughtering the general populace, while two more try to figure out what is happening. Meanwhile in the White House countermeasures are activated. Warren Ellis's take on the original *New Universe* story is a sci-fi conspiracy actioner, with shady meetings and ultra violence, effectively illustrated by Salvador Larocca, while Jason Keith's contributions to the colour art are essential. (SP) 7

New X-Men 37

by Kyle + Yost
& Young + Parsons + Henreichon

<+> Blindfold briefly tells the trainee X-Men the history of Illyana Rasputin and Belasco, and then of Belasco's current plans, which rightly terrify them. The story works through the kids' ignorance and, most importantly, through the unexpectedly good art. Skottie Young has raised his game considerably since his **New Warriors** mini a few years back, and the 'storybook' pages by **Pride of Baghdad**'s Niko Henreichon are wonderfully savage. (IM) 7

Omega Flight 1

by Oeming & Kolins

Sasquatch reluctantly agrees to lead a new Canadian superteam (including USA-ian émigrés USAgent, Arachne and one-time New Avengers opponent and Alpha Flight killer Michael); unsure, he takes on the Wrecking Crew solo. Mike Avon Oeming's plot plays out various team-building clichés, while Scott Kolins' art aspires to adequate and occasionally over-achieves. It needs to get a lot better, and fast, to survive. (IM) 3

Oeming is charged with reviving the Canadian superheroes after Brian Michael Bendis recently killed them off. Sole survivor Walter Langkowski is called by S.H.I.E.L.D. to reform the group after US criminals flood over the border to avoid powers registration. Oeming does a rather pedestrian job opening the miniseries with a particularly odd collection of B-list heroes. Kolins' quirky pencilled art fails without the cleaning up provided by an inker. (MAT) 7

The Punisher 46-48

by Ennis & Medina; Marvel MAX

<-> Frank Castle's offed a lot of married men over the years, and a cabal of vengeful wives targets him in this latest trade-friendly story arc. Duped by their transparent honey-trap and badly wounded, Frank has been saved by a vengeful woman who shares a terrible history with the widows, and who has a great deal in common with the impassive vigilante. Stripped of the scattergun coarse humour that permeates much of his work, Garth Ennis continues to turn in a dependable crime title, and Lan Medina's artwork, while not faultless, is perfectly in keeping with the tone of the series. (AMS) 7

Runaways 25

by Whedon & Ryan + Ketchum

<--> The Runaways head to New York and strike a deal with The Kingpin. The first of Joss Whedon's six issues has the tight, funny dialogue we've come to expect from him – and the thin plotting too. The Xavin/Karolina relationship continues to be enjoyably explored and Whedon convincingly writes the characters as teens. The art lets the book down, but the pencils are competent and Christina Strain's colours once again rescue my eyes. (IM) 6

Wisdom 6

by Cornell & Garcia; Marvel MAX

Cor blimey guvn'r! The bleeding English accent is being stereotyped again! Paul Cornell's a Brit, which makes it worse. Maybe I'm missing the satire here. The references to three decades of British sitcoms and children's TV are certainly welcome but mention of the Beatles seems like overkill, a little too easy to parody and a wasted opportunity at the same time. All that aside, this does contain pearls of er... wisdom, notably the conclusion. Not as 'trolley and trucked' as you might think, then. (SHO) 7

X-Factor 18

by David & Pham + Florea

<-> Mutant terrorists X-Cell, who blame recent mutant depowerings (DeciMation) on a government conspiracy, recruit Quicksilver to their cause. X-Factor stumble across the depowered Fatale and Blob, who are no match for Layla 'I know stuff' Miller. Peter David's scripting is as crisp as ever, and Khoi Pham's pencils remind me of John Romita Jr's stronger points. (IM) 7

X-Men 198

by Carey & Bachalo +Townsend

Hecatomb attacks Cable's Providence paradise, unintentionally releasing Sabretooth. That plot distillation makes it sound weak but there's more going on – including a convoluted origin story involving the Shi'ar and Mummudrai - even if a lot of it is set-up. Chris Bachalo's art is depressingly varied: his depiction of Hecatomb is magnificent, an almost watercoloured inked sprawling mess, but many of his smaller figures look awkward, cramped and barely recognisable. Despite all this, Mike Carey's spinning a lively, enjoyable tapestry of X-stories. (IM) 6

X-Men 199

by Carey & Bachalo + Townsend

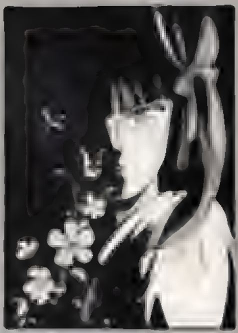
<-> The plot is thin, especially with using Iceman to save the day via a similar trick twice in one issue as the X-Men confront the Mummudrai. The art is hit and miss – Chris Bachalo's big set pieces often look great – the final page shot of the damaged Conquistador and the tiny figures of the X-Men by comparison looks good, and Studio F's Antonio Fabela's colours are excellent.

TOKYOPOP® & COMIC EXPO

PRESENT

BRISTOL INTERNATIONAL

MANGA EXPO



In association with COMICS INTERNATIONAL

3rd & 4th NOVEMBER 2007

THE MERCURE HOLLAND HOUSE HOTEL
REDCLIFFE WAY BRISTOL

www.mangaexpo.net

sweatdrop
UK MANGA STUDIOS
www.sweatdrop.com

genki gear

MANGA · ANIME

GUESTS · PANELS · Artist and Writer WORKSHOPS

COSPLAY · EXHIBITIONS · EXPO EXCLUSIVES · GAMES

AND MUCH MORE!

MVM entertainment

Boychild Books

LETRASET®

KRACKERS
KRACKERS COMICS & GAMES

MARKOSIA

SELF MADE HERO
MANGA SHAKESPEARE

TokyoToys

ウミセンヤマセン
WWW.UMISEN-YAMASEN.COM

FORBIDDEN PLANET

All images copyright respective owners, used with permission.

The art is generally improved but smaller panels do sometimes struggle in terms of expressiveness and clarity. (IM) 5

Canadian Indies

Optic Nerve 11

by Tomine

<=> Adrian Tomine concludes his first three-part story, as the bitter Ben Tanaka travels to New York in an attempt to reconcile with his estranged girlfriend, only to discover that she has moved on. Tomine's portrayal of their painful reunion and Ben's emotional immaturity shows his skill at capturing human frailties, while his clean, realistic linework displays his mastery of art as well as storytelling. (MAT) 8

US Indies

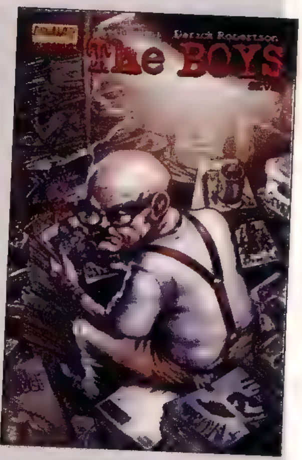
Angel

by Sakurazawa; Tokyopop

A female angel, who never speaks but merely observes, befriends three disparate individuals: a love-lorn young man, a suicidal teen, and the neglected child of a single mother. Initially fractured and unsteady, as if creator Erica Sakurazawa is improvising somewhat, this 232-page manga eventually finds its feet, settling into a more confident, structured stride. The sparse, spontaneous linework brings life and an edgy realism to these touching, surreal tales of isolation that eschew pessimism in favour of hope. (JE) 7

The Boys 7

by Ennis & Robertson;
Dynamite Entertainment



<-> The Boys move to Dynamite Entertainment and Garth Ennis seems to see it as an excuse for more extreme swearing and sexual deviancy at the expense of thinly veiled familiar superhero analogues, as if the freedom of leaving DC is an excuse for self indulgence. The Butcher and Wee Hughie meet the Legend, who at least doesn't look like Stan Lee but is more than a little jarring, while an A-list superpower has, how shall we say, fornicatory shortcomings. Hilarious, if a bit obvious. (SP) 6

<+> Given the delays that can occur when a controversial title doesn't leave DC, Dynamite Entertainment is to be congratulated for snapping this creator-owned series up from its uncomfortable publisher and getting both a monthly series and a trade paperback out in a mere four months. Story-wise, it's Garth Ennis on autopilot, which is comparatively no bad thing, although he is constantly proving himself capable of much better. On the plus side, Darrick Robertson's cartoon-tinged artwork perfectly complements the playful, blackly humorous tone of Ennis's scripts. (AMS) 6

Blackgas 2 #2

by Ellis & Fiumara; Avatar Comics

<+> The tension ramps up a gear as Soo and Officer Rader try to flee the now-totally infested city. The only plus on their side is that zombies don't drive cars. Do they? Warren Ellis's high-concept zombie tale nears its climax with a genuinely surprising twist, promising an explosive and no doubt bloody finale next issue. Max Fiumara's art, always grimy, takes us into darker territory as the story gets bleaker. Think *Land of the Dead* on speed, this is a movie waiting to happen. (SP) 8

Black Summer 0

by Ellis & Ryp; Avatar Comics

What happens when our superheroes, our trusted icons suddenly realise that our leaders are wrong? That they have dragged us into an illegal war for their own ends, causing the deaths of thousands? What happens when one of those heroes decides to kill the President and return democracy to our hands? Knowingly provocative, Warren Ellis attacks the elephant in the political room with gusto, while Juan Jose Ryp transcends his previous schlock-art to produce clear, detailed illustration. It grips, and it's only an eight-page teaser. (SP) 7

CVO African Blood 3

by Torres & Czerniawski;
IDW Publishing

<=> Cross and Britt have been captured by Debelo and his army of Azde vampires. Even worse, Cross has discovered his family are still alive, but the psychically controlled and unkillable Noble has been sent to eliminate them. Worse still, the bombers are headed their way and Bools is their only hope. Lucky he's an evil, extremely violent bastard, then. The ongoing saga of the CIA's own vampire squad never fails to entertain, Luis Czerniawski's workmanlike art is improved no end by IDW Publishing's unmatched production values. 7

Fall of Cthulhu 3

by Dzialowski & Nelson; Boom Studios

<=> Ancient Lovecraftian horrors are always a welcome sight in comics, and this new miniseries tackles all the familiar themes you'd expect from a Mythos title. The horror is brooding, subtle and

www.incognitocomics.com

The website

Updated daily, with over 750,000 comics available from the country's fastest and funkiest comics website, plus action fugres, statues and more!

We now list over 1,000 graphic novels plus the largest selection of Bowen statues and mini-busts in the country!

The events

Incognito on the road! We bring the comics to the customer. If you attend any of the major collectors' shows, look out for our stunning display of classic comics and more!

The shop

Open Monday to Saturday from 10.00 to 5.30pm (next to Marlowe Theatre, we're at 1-2 The Friars, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2AS.
Tel/fax: 01227 785898

ACCURATE GRADING! FAST ORDER TURNAROUND TIME! EXCELLENT CUSTOMER CARE!
THE INCOGNITO COMICS
STAR WARS
INCOGNITO
INCOGNITO COMICS
...welcome to Aladdin's Cave!

sinister, as befitting the heritage of the pulp originals. My only real criticism involves the rather garish colouring used in the Dreamland sequences. It jars when juxtaposed against the dark art employed to illustrate the contemporary world sequences. (RN) 7

Hookjaw Volume 1

by Mills & Sola; Spitfire Comics

Some will draw amusement from the description of one protagonist as a "water sports expert", but if you can get over that, this collection of **Action**'s notorious *Jaws* rip-off is wonderful. A few pages have obviously been reproduced from letterpress colour spreads, and so look very murky indeed, but that aside the art is wonderful. The bad guys are total swines, the good guys mostly get eaten by the shark and the scripts are clever, inventive and stylish. (DM) 8

Monster Volume 3

by Urasawa; Viz Media

<-> Determined to clear his name, fugitive Dr Tenma learns the shocking truth behind the boyhood of the man he believes to be the true serial killer. However, the doctor leaves behind a trail of murders in his wake, leading the ruthless Inspector Lunge to conclude that Tenma is a split personality. Although this 210-page £6.99 instalment feels rather padded (and even the accomplished artwork here seems a tad uninspired), these faults don't detract from the overarching storyline's strength, solid execution, and continual ability to surprise. (JE) 8

Mouse Guard

by Petersen; Archaia

The surprise (critical) success story of recent months is now available as a high-quality and highly desirable hardback graphic novel. It's a fantasy tale set in an anthropomorphic mouse kingdom, starring the eponymous heroes of the title as they battle snakes and sinister secret societies. Treading the line successfully between cute animal tales and dark fantasy, the writer/artist has succeeded in crafting a timeless classic that appeals to even hardened cynics like myself. True quality and, as a compete package, utterly deserving of a very, very rare indeed 10/10. It's just that good! (RN) 10

Please Release

by Nate Powell; Top Shelf

Nate works with the adults with developmental problems and questions whether he can still be a punk now he's 27. Nate's questioning of his role at work and in the wider world is interesting but unsubtle – more like an essay than a narrative – but scenes like him snuggling at night with his pillow illustrate a healthy level of self-awareness and show us the man not the message. (IM) 6

UK Newsstand

2000AD Extreme Edition 22

by various; Rebellion

Celebrating 30 years of Judge Dredd, this issue focuses on the legendary lawman and his supporting cast, mostly culled from 1980s annuals and specials. Best of a consistently enjoyable bunch are *Behold The Beast!* by John Wagner and Carlos Esquerra, a trio of tales featuring Dredd's snitch Max Normal and *Born Mean* by Gordon Rennie and Kevin Walker, starring the ever-entertaining Mean Machine. The issue is wrapped up in a classic Dredd cover by Brian Bolland. A snip at £2.99. (KM) 7

Astonishing Spider-Man volume 2 #1

by Bedard & Garcia/
Michelinie & Bagley;
Marvel Collectors' Edition/Panini UK

Wow! This just screams "Buy Me!" An Andy Kubert illustration, excessive use of alliteration, a shiny foil cover and a big, bold number 1 in the corner box. Inside, *Breakout* sees Spider-Man up against The U-Foes and Crossfire's crew while the archive strip concludes Carnage's debut, begun in volume 1 #150. I'm not a fan of relaunches for the sake of it, but this is a good start to **ASM** volume 2. Let's hope it maintains the standard. (KM) 7

The Astonishing Spider-Man volume 2 #2

by Bedard & Garcia/
Lee & Romita + Mooney;
Marvel Collectors' Edition/Panini UK

<+> Tony Bedard's *Breakout* deftly balances thought-provoking narrative and dramatic tension and, given the large cast of characters, doesn't forget to place its lead character at the centre. Manuel Garcia and Raul Fernandez impress with some energetic storytelling. The Black Widow swings by in the 1970s strip. The script is inevitably melodramatic (this is Stan Lee, after all), the art is vintage John Romita, and there's a finale worthy of the best soap operas. What more could you ask for? (KM) 8

The Astonishing Spider-Man volume 2 #3

by various;
Marvel Collectors' Edition/Panini UK

<=> *Breakout* concludes, with Spider-Man calling in some help from new team-mates Captain America and Iron Man. Manuel Garcia's art isn't quite up to the same standard, the artist notably struggling with the New Avengers, who seem oddly squat throughout. New story *Unusual Suspects*, a Daredevil/Spider-Man double header by Paul Jenkins, Phil Winslade and Tom Palmer, doesn't disappoint. *Unmasked At Last!* is a fun story demonstrating that ol' Petey is more of a worry wart even than Aunt May…! (KM) 8

The Avengers United 78

by various;
Marvel Collectors' Edition/Panini UK

"Hey Kid, It's a SMASH!"

FREE CATALOG

AMERICAN COMICS & MAGAZINES 1958 - current
1,000's RECENT Marvel +DC back-issues SALE!

DYNAMIC!

Yes! SEND ME YOUR FREE CATALOG

Name: ______________________

Address: ______________________

____

______________________ Postcode: ______________

MAIL THIS COUPON TO ≫ DYNAMIC (Steve Rock)
4 Orme Drive, Clevedon, N. Somerset. BS21 7HD
Mobile: 0770 928 6312 (Text requests / Messages)

Breakout plays like an episode of *24*, with lots of talking interspersed with nosebleed-inducing action. David Finch's big-budget art is impressive, if overly reliant on splash pages.

Still, it's a big improvement on the disappointing *Disassembled* and it's refreshing to see a genuinely new and interesting team of Avengers. John Byrne takes over art duties on the classic strip, complemented by Gene Day's smooth inking. And – dare I say it? – *Tales of Asgard* isn't all bad. (KM) 8

The Avengers United 79

by various;

Marvel Collectors' Edition/Panini UK

<=> Judging by this issue's gratuitous T&A cover, Spider-Woman has clearly had several tucks and implants since she first entered the Marvel Universe [back in 1977].

Inside, Brian Michael GBendis and David Finch's *Breakout* continues to be a promising start for the fledgling New Avengers. In the excellent 1970s archive tale, the team attempt to rescue Quicksilver and Scarlet Witch, leading to a surreal battle with their adoptive father. Finally, Loki tries to off Thor before their quest has even got underway in another entertaining *Tales of Asgard* instalment. (KM) 8

The Avengers United 80

by various;

Marvel Collectors' Edition/Panini UK

<=> A blistering conclusion to *Breakout* by Brian Michael Bendis and David Finch, which mixes Wolverine, Sauron and Black Widow Mk II with some Savage Land action and convincingly sets up The New Avengers.

Back in time, Ms Marvel and The Falcon officially join the team, just as The Absorbing Man runs amok. John Byrne and Klaus Janson are a good match, while David Michelinie's script is loaded with humour. *Tales of Asgard* introduces The Warriors Three in another light but fun instalment. (KM) 8

Mighty World of Marvel volume 3 #55

by various;

Marvel Collectors' Edition/Panini UK

Beyond! uses the original **Secret Wars** template to bring a disparate bunch of characters into conflict. Dwayne McDuffie's script doesn't disappoint and Scott Kolins' impeccable art is given added depth by Paul Mounts' colours.

Ghost Rider confronts Dr Strange courtesy of Daniel Way, Javier Saltares and Mark Texeira, this issue's highlight by a long chalk. At the opposite end of the scale, Kurt Busiek and Erik Larsen's *Defenders* continues to underwhelm as the team encounters Red Raven and, erm, Bi-Beast. (KM) 6

Mighty World of Marvel volume 3 #56

by various;

Marvel Collectors' Edition/Panini UK

<=> Scott Kolins' uncharacteristically bland Venom cover masks an entertaining episode of *Beyond!* with Kraven getting all the best lines.

The true nature of Lucifer's manifestation on Earth and Ghost Rider's unwitting part in his plans is revealed in the third part of this cracking new series. Artists Javier Saltares and Mark Texeira are an ideal match, with colourist Dan Brown's excellent work greatly enhancing the mood. An almost faultless series. The Defenders wrap up their current storyline, thankfully. 'Nuff said. (KM) 6

Superman Legends 1

by various;

DC Collectors' Edition/Titan Magazines

Folowing its takeover of Panini's **Batman Legends** Titan Magazines' challenge to the former Marvel UK's dominance of UK newsstand superhero comics continues with the launch of its second DC title.

Brian Azzarello and Jim Lee deliver the gritty *For Tomorrow* but it's **All-Star Superman** by Grant Morrison and Frank Quitely that's the undoubted high point for me, the series getting off to an even more memorable start than their collaboration on Marvel's **New X-Men**.

Jeph Loeb and Ed McGuinness' Superman/Batman story (continued from **Batman Legends** 4) pales by comparison, but doesn't sufficiently detract from an otherwise impressive premiere. (KM) 7

Superman Legends 2

by various;

DC Collectors' Edition/Titan Magazines

<=> Superman investigates the global disappearance of thousands of people as *For Tomorrow* continues. The theme of loss, particularly of faith, is well handled and Jim Lee's visuals are unexpectedly sensitive.

In the superlative **All-Star** strip, Lois Lane deals with Clark Kent's revelation that he is Superman in a typically stunning combination of writing and art. Last and definitely least is the climax of Superman and Batman versus bonkers US president Lex Luthor. It's tosh, of course, but well-drawn tosh. (KM) 7

Wolverine & Deadpool 137

by various;

Marvel Collectors' Edition/Panini UK

Enemy of the State concludes as Wolverine attacks the X-Men... with fatal consequences for Northstar.

The fact that **Essential X-Men** skipped the run of stories featuring Northstar lessens the impact, but there's no denying its contribution to a thoroughly enjoyable series. John Romita Jr's recasting of George Dubya as Charlton Heston circa 1970 raised a chuckle, too. Elsewhere, the Deadpool and classic Wolverine strips deliver plenty of light and shade, both a real asset to the title as a whole. (KM) 8

Wolverine & Deadpool 138

by various;

Marvel Collectors' Edition/Panini UK

<=> There's plenty to enjoy in *Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.*, including the agency's efforts to recondition Wolverine and a climatic aerial assault by Hydra's horde of resurrected superhumans. The fun in *The Gehenna Stone Affair*'s issue-long John Buscema-drawn melee is spotting how many different directions the hapless opponents will be flung from each panel.

Finally, Deadpool faces his Dead Reckoning, Joe Kelly deftly balancing exposition, humour and tension in a fast paced tale that doesn't leave the reader behind. (KM) 8

Small Press

The O Men volume 2 #3

by Eden;

http://www.comix.org.uk/theomen/index.htm

<=> Stuart came back from the dead. Grace was found leading a superhuman cult. Explanations are in order.

Martin Eden eases off on the pace a little in order to allow his cast to ruminate on recent and not so recent events, and his mastery of characterisation is in full effect once more. It's a quiet issue, but with writing this good, you don't need heaps of action. (KG) 9

Sgt Mike Battle: The Greatest American Hero 8

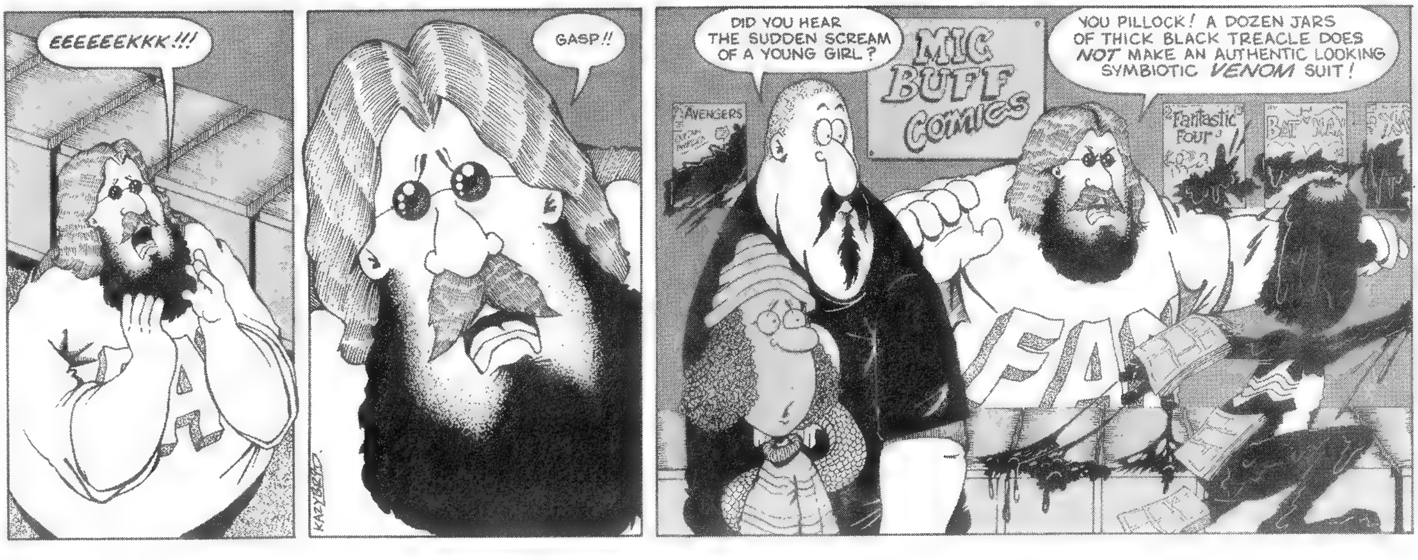
by Pearce;

£1 from Graham Pearce
c/o 42 Talbot Road,
Preston, Lancashire, PR1 9QX
or grahampearce8@netscape.net

<+> Evil terrorist group A.C.R.O.N.Y.M. take over a US office building and the only hope lies with a lowly admin assistant.

The sharp wit and clever satire of previous issues is present and correct, this time taking a swipe at *Die Hard*-style action movies, but this comic is an improvement in that writer/artist Graham Pearce backs up the jokes with a solid and interesting plot, resulting in the most well-rounded issue so far. (KG)

Mike Kazybrid's COMIC CUTS **Script by Sarah Sier**


EEEEEEKKK!!!
GASP!!
DID YOU HEAR THE SUDDEN SCREAM OF A YOUNG GIRL?
MIC BUFF COMICS
AVENGERS
YOU PILLOCK! A DOZEN JARS OF THICK BLACK TREACLE DOES NOT MAKE AN AUTHENTIC LOOKING SYMBIOTIC VENOM SUIT!
Fantastic Four
KAZYBRID

The Prisoner in comics

With The Prisoner *set to make the jump to the big screen, Ian Wheeler and John Freeman take a timely look at the character's patchy comics career*

IT MAY be over 40 years since it first aired but cult TV show *The Prisoner* remains one of the most fondly remembered and perhaps the most puzzling television series ever.

Made across 1966 and 1967, the series was devised by Patrick McGoohan and George Markstein and produced by Lew Grade's ITC Entertainment, a company which had and would continue to produce many other cult series such as *The Saint*, *The Champions*, *Department S* and *The Persuaders!*.

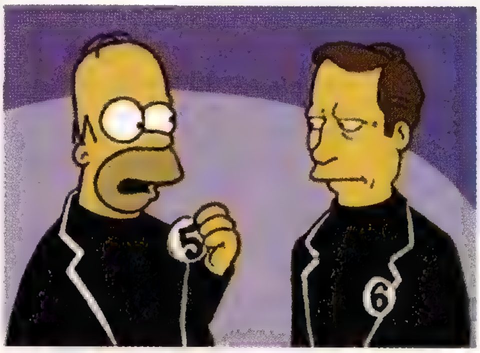
Much of ITC's series output during the 1960s and 1970s featured spies and detectives but, like the James Bond movies, also incorporated an element of fantasy into their storylines. While it appeared on the surface to be set firmly within the spy genre, *The Prisoner* was to continue this trend and has gained a huge following among fans of fantasy and science fiction the world over.

Patrick McGoohan wrote and directed a number of episodes of *The Prisoner* and also took the title role. Many fans believe that the character he played in the series (referred to only as Number Six) was in fact the John Drake role from his earlier series, *Danger Man* [see last issue], although McGoohan has denied this.

Number Six is a government agent who resigns and is promptly kidnapped, ultimately finding himself in a mysterious place known only as The Village. Quite where this village is located is unclear. In the episode 'Many Happy Returns', Number Six estimates The Village to be somewhere off the coast of Morocco, southwest of Portugal and Spain. Maybe so, but in the final episode, 'Fall Out', it is suggested that The Village is actually within driving distance of London.

In reality of course, The Village was Portmeirion, the Italian-styled resort village located on the coast of Snowdonia in North Wales, which was designed and constructed by Sir Clough William-Ellis between 1925 and 1975.

The Village is administered on a day-to-day basis by an official known only as Number Two, a role taken by a number of different people. It is not clear whether those who cease to occupy the position do so as a punishment or because a successor is democratically elected. Actors to play the role of Number Two included *Rumpole of the Bailey*'s Leo McKern, Colin Gordon and George Baker, who would later play Inspector Wexford in ITV's *The Ruth Rendell Mysteries*.

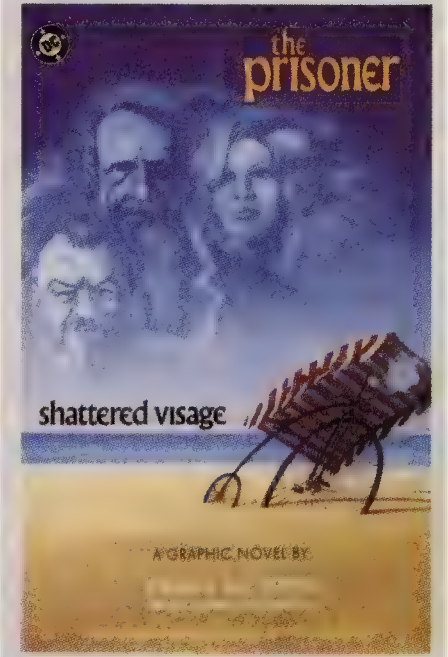


You know you count when you feature in The Simpsons! The Prisoner *has made no less than two seperate appearances, with Patrick McGoohan doing a voiceover for 'The Computer Wore Menace Shoes' and, in 'The Joy of Sect', Marge escaping a Village-like compound – chased by a strangely familiar large white ball.*

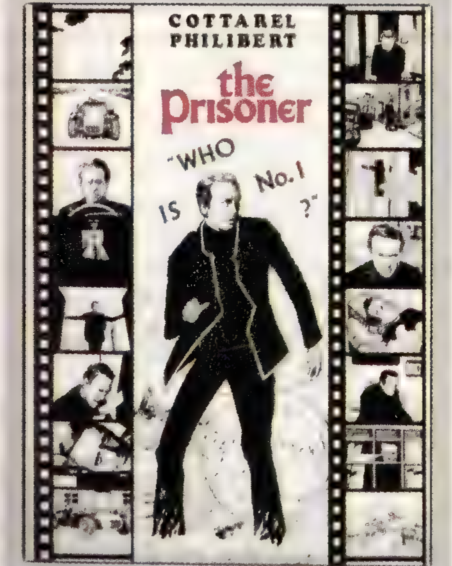
The Prisoner features one of the most famous sets of opening titles in TV history, notable because they tell a story within themselves, neatly informing new viewers and reminding old ones of the series concept. In the titles, we see Number Six driving a Lotus Seven past London's Houses of Parliament and into an underground car park. He enters an office and begins to argue with the man within, delivers a letter (presumably his resignation) and then drives home, followed all the way by a hearse. In his flat, he packs his possessions. The hearse

READ ALL ABOUT THE MYSTERONS IN...
TV TORNADO
6d
No 6 – The
see COVER MAN inside

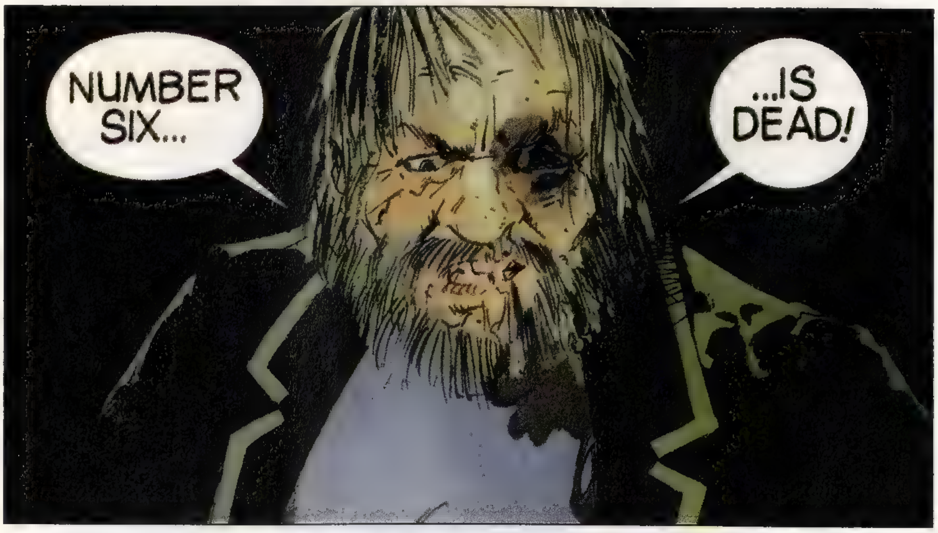
Where is Number Six? Showcasing a strip that never happened, a standalone Prisoner *cover from the weekly* **TV Tornado** *48 (December 9, 1967).*



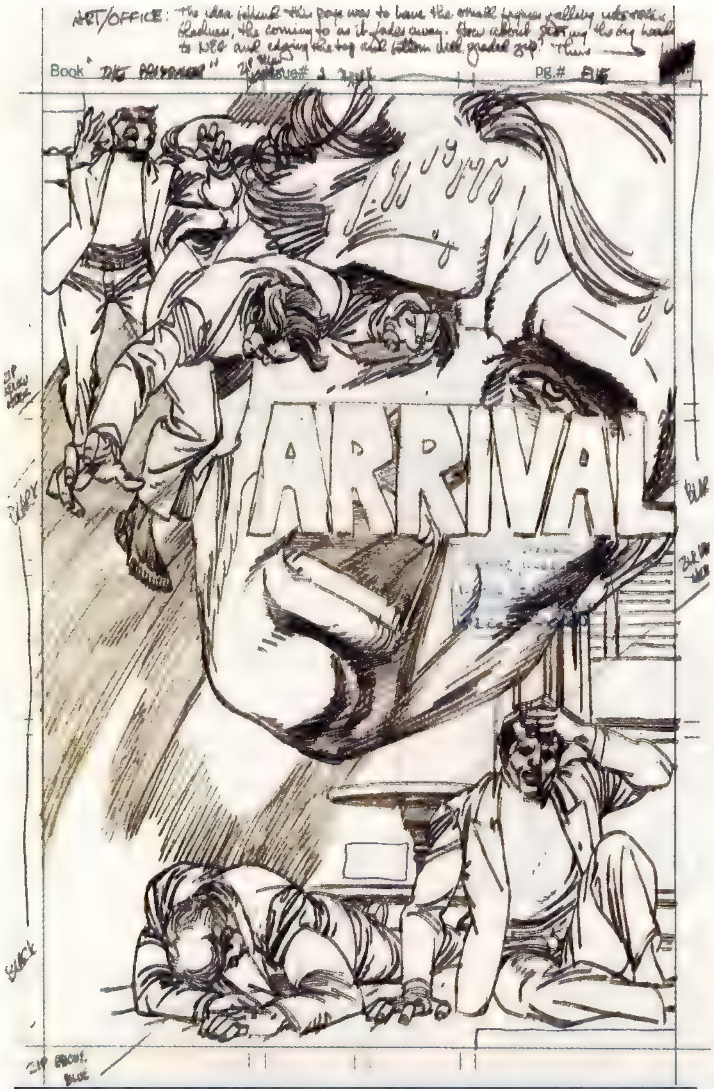
Dean Motter and Mark Askwith made a brave stab at a four-issue Prisoner *sequel, collected in* **Shattered Visage** *from DC Comics, 1989.*

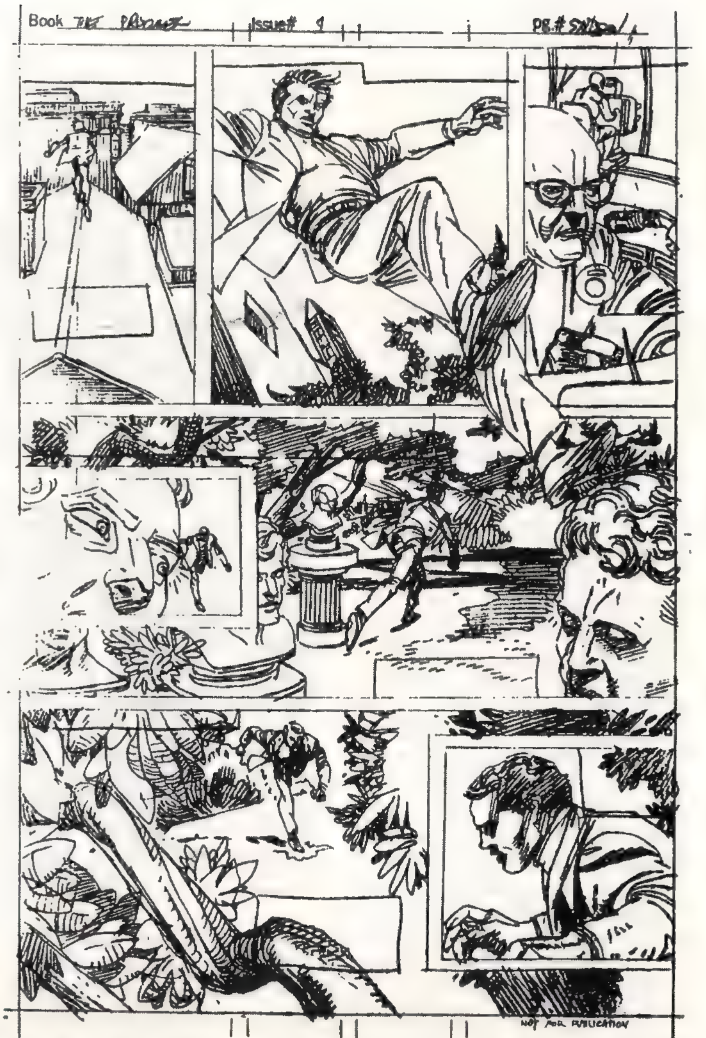


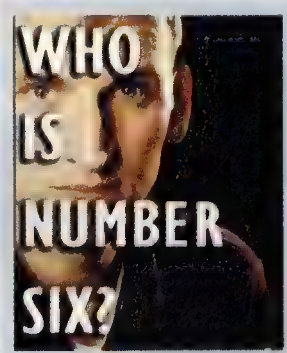
Who is No. 1? *By Jean-Michel Philibert and Phillipe Cottarel, this is a 28-page 1988 indie comicbook.*


NUMBER SIX...
...IS DEAD!

Twenty years on and Number Two (Leo McKern) is looking a little worse for wear! A dramatic scene from Dean Motter and Mark Askwith's **The Prisoner: Shattered Visage** *(DC Comics, 1989).*







Comics... film... TV... Can anybody remake a classic?

LEW Grade may not have known what his top-earning TV star was up to when he gave Patrick McGoohan the go-ahead on a more personalised follow-up to the hit *Danger Man* series, but McGoohan certainly did!

But here was a man who, according to his co-star in *The Prisoner* Alexis Kanner, turned down the $10 million offered just to talk about playing James Bond... on principle. He just didn't like the whole sex and spoof approach and didn't want to be involved.

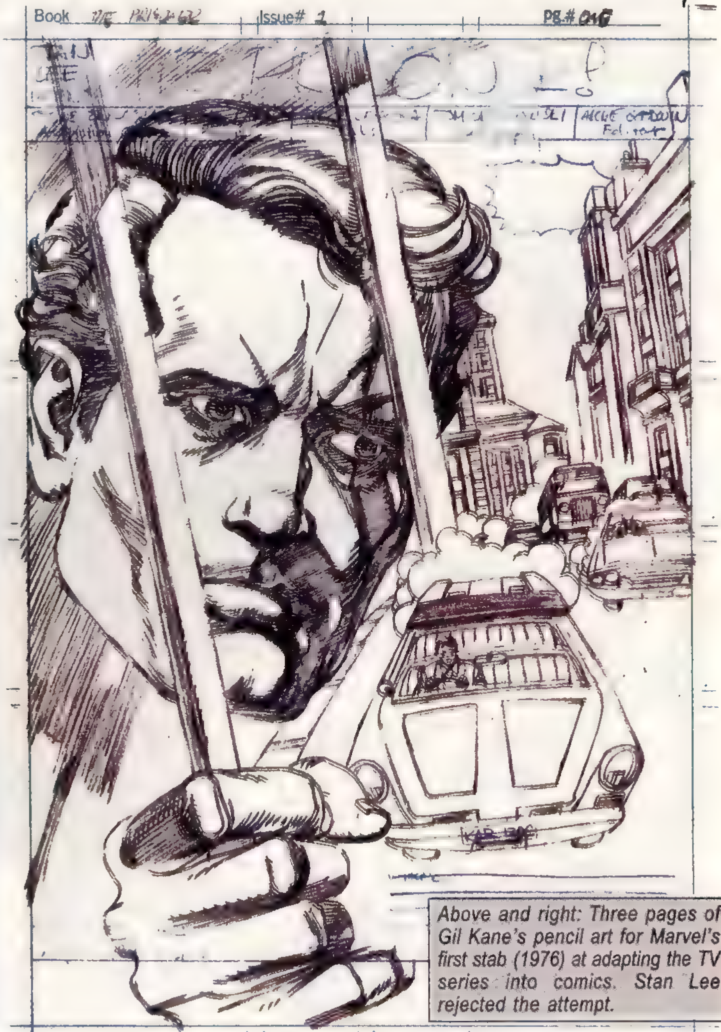
Like many other genre TV auteurs, including Brian Clemens, Joe Michael Straczynski and Joss Whedon, he knew what he wanted to achieve and would fight anybody to make sure it was done his way.

All of which makes it a nigh-on impossible task for outsiders to capture the essence of *The Prisoner*. *Memento*'s Christopher Nolan, now riding high on his successful relaunch of the Batman film franchise, is set to step into McGoohan's shoes with a modernised *Prisoner* film script from *Twelve Monkeys* scribes Janet and David Peoples. But with TV and film rights being sold separately, this could be pre-empted as *Doctor Who*'s Christopher Eccleston is said to be the lead in a Granada TV-produced six-part "thrilling reinvention" for SkyOne, with its new director of programmes Richard Woolfe saying, "If *Doctor Who* set the standard, *The Prisoner* raises the bar."

Raising it is one thing, getting over it another. And so far, nobody has quite managed that. The superb US comics artist Gil Kane drew *The Prisoner* almost melodramatically, losing any subtlety, while the ever-chunky Jack Kirby (rarely known for any form of subtlety in print) obviously just didn't get it at all. The writing (Englehart, Kirby) fared little better, with the constant naming of the protagonist as "The Prisoner" rather than Number Six.

Despite approval by McGoohan as part of the production process, Dean Motter's much later four-part sequel for DC Comics also failed to impress, its muddled ideas a major disappointment for many diehard fans.

Considering the flopped remakes of *The Avengers*, *Thunderbirds* and *The Saint*, perhaps 1960s UK telefantasy is an enigmatic time-locked genre too full of intrinsically British quirks and whimsy for American production with its post-MTV rapid-cutting short 'n' snappy directness. *...Dez Skinn*

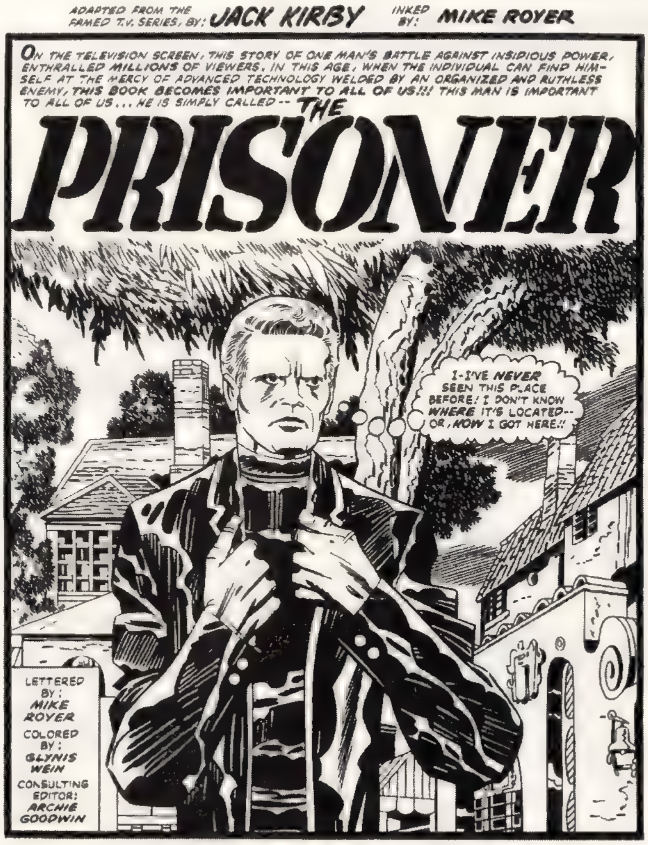


Above and right: Three pages of Gil Kane's pencil art for Marvel's first stab (1976) at adapting the TV series into comics. Stan Lee rejected the attempt.

pulls up outside the apartment and a man approaches the front door. Gas then floods the room through the keyhole, rendering the soon-to-be Number Six unconscious. He awakens in what he at first assumes to be his apartment, but is in fact a recreation of the flat in the Village – he is a prisoner.

The identity of Number One, the unseen individual whom Number Six assumes to be in charge of The Village, remains a mystery throughout the series. Some fans assume that he or she does not exist, although we do hear some of the various Number Twos address someone over the telephone as 'Sir'. In 'Fall Out', first broadcast on ATV (London) on 4th February 1968 and four days earlier on Scottish Television, Number Six finally confronts Number One, pulling off a mask to reveal the face of a chimpanzee, then removing a second mask, only to see his own face.

Already bemused by the strange direction of a series most viewers thought would be a follow up to the highly successful *Danger Man*, 'Fall Out', had angry viewers jamming the ITV switchboard, so annoyed were they by *The Prisoner*'s cryptic final episode. McGoohan, who had written and directed the episode himself, was forced to go into hiding as fans were even calling at his house to demand an explanation. (They may have been a little more sympathetic had they known, as is now believed by some *Prisoner* historians, that McGoohan was forced to write a premature finale in only a few days when ITC abruptly axed the series).

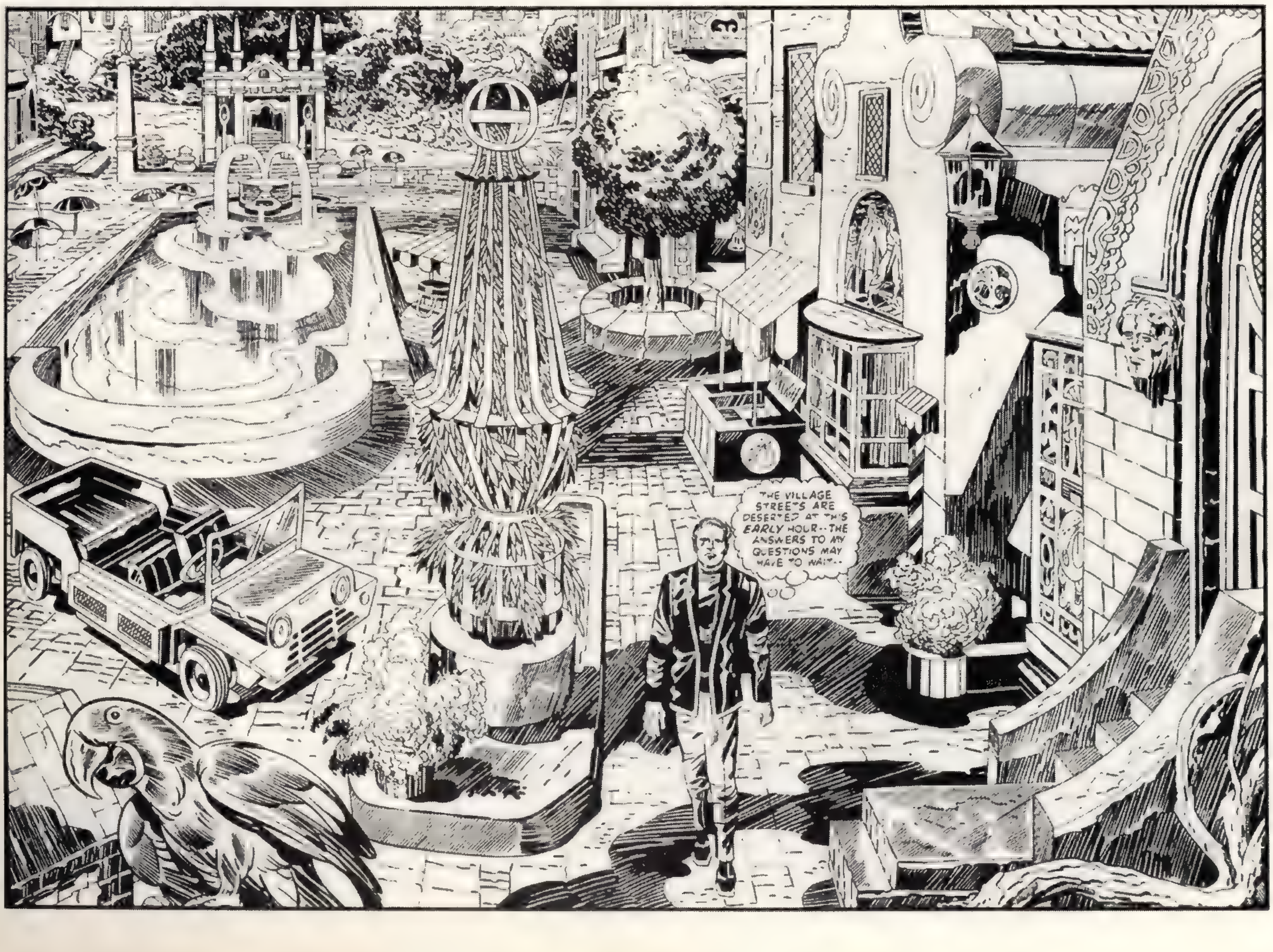

ADAPTED FROM THE FAMED T.V. SERIES, BY: JACK KIRBY
INKED BY: MIKE ROYER
ON THE TELEVISION SCREEN, THIS STORY OF ONE MAN'S BATTLE AGAINST INSIDIOUS POWER, ENTHRALLED MILLIONS OF VIEWERS. IN THIS AGE, WHEN THE INDIVIDUAL CAN FIND HIMSELF AT THE MERCY OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY WELDED BY AN ORGANIZED AND RUTHLESS ENEMY, THIS BOOK BECOMES IMPORTANT TO ALL OF US!!! THIS MAN IS IMPORTANT TO ALL OF US... HE IS SIMPLY CALLED -- THE
PRISONER
I-I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS PLACE BEFORE! I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT'S LOCATED-- OR, HOW I GOT HERE!!
LETTERED BY: MIKE ROYER
COLORED BY: GLYNIS WEIN
CONSULTING EDITOR: ARCHIE GOODWIN

Whatever the truth behind *The Prisoner*, its thought-provoking storylines have earned it a place in TV history as one of the most inventive and intriguing television series ever made. From the early episodes that centred mostly on Number Six's attempts to escape The Village, the series developed to explore some of the major themes of the human condition including liberty and the relationship that individuals have with authority.

As might be expected of such an influential and imaginative series, *The Prisoner* has been referred to and parodied in numerous films and TV shows. A huge list, these include the first *Austin Powers* movie, *The Avengers* episode 'Wish You Were Here', *and Columbo* (the episode 'Identity Crisis' directed by and guest-starring McGoohan features his character Nelson Brenner, a spy who shares personality traits with Number Six and even says "Be seeing you", a phrase often used in *The Prisoner)*.

It featured twice in *The Simpsons* (in one McGoohan actually returned to voice the character of Number Six), plus an entire episode of the *Reboot* CGI series and *Pinky and the Brain*, along with countless in-jokes in *Babylon 5,* references in *Lost*, *The Matrix* and even TV comedies such as *Three's Company*, the BBC's *2point4children* and Ronnie Corbett's *Sorry!* Iron Maiden is just one of the bands to have referenced it in music.

The Prisoner was perhaps more suited to the comics medium than *Danger Man*, incorporating as it did a high level of mystery in addition to the action and adventure of McGoohan's earlier show, but it took a considerable amount of time for a *Prisoner*


THE VILLAGE STREETS ARE DESERTED AT THIS EARLY HOUR--THE ANSWERS TO MY QUESTIONS MAY HAVE TO WAIT--

comicbook project of any substance to emerge. The reason would seem to be down to McGoohan himself.

According to writer Martin Gainsford in **The Morning After**, a *Persuaders* and ITC fanzine produced by Jaz Wiseman, the actor was somewhat hostile to potential *Prisoner* merchandise. When Century 21 merchandising manager Richard Culley presented ideas for a Number Six Action Man-style figure and a *Prisoner* comic strip (planned for either **TV Tornado** or **TV21**), McGoohan was said to have retorted, "I'm not going to be a dolly or a comic strip!"

Unlike *Danger Man*, McGoohan had sufficient control over *The Prisoner* to ensure that, for example, even when it appeared as a cover illustration on Britain's **TV Tornado** weekly – it did not appear as a strip in the comic itself.

By the mid-1970s, *The Prisoner* was still very much a talking point, and having acquired the rights, Marvel Comics gave thought to a **Prisoner** comic, to be written by Steve Englehart and drawn by Gil Kane. But the writer left Marvel and the project was stalled by publisher Stan Lee who gave it to Jack Kirby to put together, he wrote and pencilled a 17-page first issue that was partially inked and lettered by Mike Royer.

Naturally enough, the issue adapts the series' first episode, 'Arrival', and was planned to go on sale in November with a February 1997 cover date. But – outside of later coverage on comics websites and in fanzines – it was never published, being scrapped again by Lee.

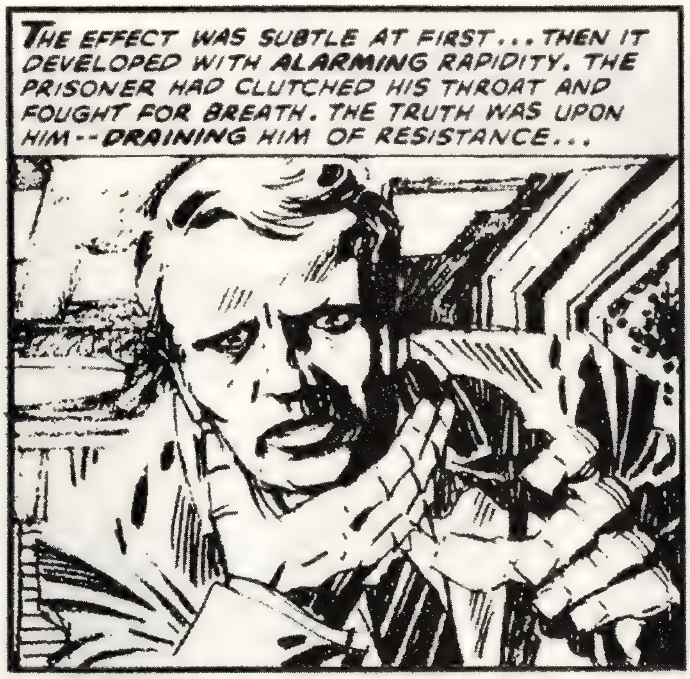
By 1989, DC Comics produced a four-issue sequel to *The Prisoner*, co-written by Dean Motter and Mark Askwith and drawn by Motter, set 20 years after the events of 'Fall Out'. The four issues were not numbered but labelled A, B, C and D, a nod to the series episode 'A, B and C' and an acknowledgement that Number Six was 'not a number' but a free man.

In this sequel, travel writer and former secret agent Alice Drake resigns from her job to make a solo sea voyage around the world . She runs into a storm which washes her ship onto a mysterious island, where she finds The Village of the original *Prisoner* series. There she encounters the original Number Six, now living alone in The Village and calling himself Number Two.

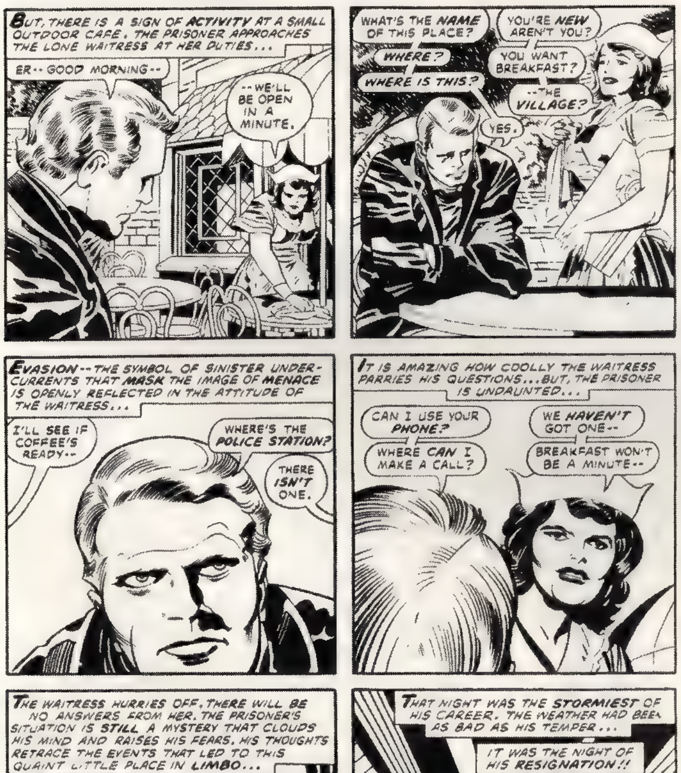
In the second issue, the Leo McKern version of Number Two returns to The Village (McKern himself was said to be delighted to be a comics star) and the two prove to have very different interpretations of The Village's history.

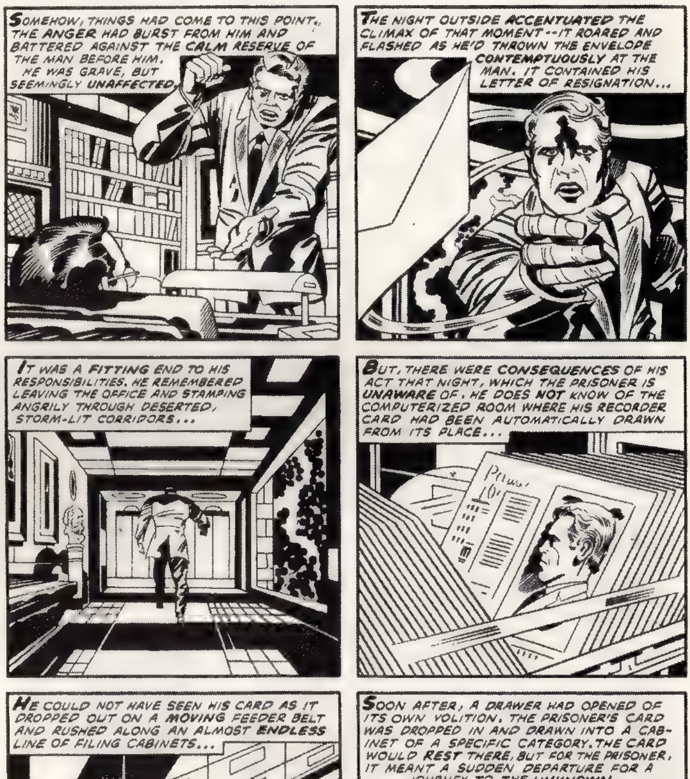
Alice's husband Thomas Drake, an intelligence officer who fears that Number Two's return to the Village may compromise British security, arrives at The Village with an American agent called Lee West. Number Six and Number Two battle in an old mill and shortly afterwards, we see Number Six return to his house.

Paratroopers sent by Thomas Drake's superior, Director Ross of Operations, arrive in The Village and with Lee and Thomas (!) they


THE EFFECT WAS SUBTLE AT FIRST... THEN IT DEVELOPED WITH ALARMING RAPIDITY. THE PRISONER HAD CLUTCHED HIS THROAT AND FOUGHT FOR BREATH. THE TRUTH WAS UPON HIM--DRAINING HIM OF RESISTANCE...

Alienation and paranoia are themes Jack Kirby would return to constantly in his latter-year career as a writer/artist in American comics. Probably remembering The Prisoner *homage in 1969's* **Fantastic Four** *four-part story (#86-89), Stan Lee assigned Kirby to replace Gil Kane on producing a series retelling* The Prisoner *in comics. As the visuals on this spread attest, Kirby gave the project his trademarked dynamism, but in doing so totally lost the feel of the TV series and the idea was cancelled.*


BUT, THERE IS A SIGN OF ACTIVITY AT A SMALL OUTDOOR CAFE. THE PRISONER APPROACHES THE LONE WAITRESS AT HER DUTIES...
ER-- GOOD MORNING--
--WE'LL BE OPEN IN A MINUTE.
WHAT'S THE NAME OF THIS PLACE?
YOU'RE NEW AREN'T YOU?
WHERE?
YOU WANT BREAKFAST?
WHERE IS THIS?
--THE VILLAGE?
YES.
EVASION--THE SYMBOL OF SINISTER UNDERCURRENTS THAT MASK THE IMAGE OF MENACE IS OPENLY REFLECTED IN THE ATTITUDE OF THE WAITRESS...
I'LL SEE IF COFFEE'S READY--
WHERE'S THE POLICE STATION?
THERE ISN'T ONE.
IT IS AMAZING HOW COOLLY THE WAITRESS PARRIES HIS QUESTIONS...BUT, THE PRISONER IS UNDAUNTED...
CAN I USE YOUR PHONE?
WE HAVEN'T GOT ONE--
WHERE CAN I MAKE A CALL?
BREAKFAST WON'T BE A MINUTE--
THE WAITRESS HURRIES OFF. THERE WILL BE NO ANSWERS FROM HER. THE PRISONER'S SITUATION IS STILL A MYSTERY THAT CLOUDS HIS MIND AND RAISES HIS FEARS. HIS THOUGHTS RETRACE THE EVENTS THAT LED TO THIS QUAINT LITTLE PLACE IN LIMBO...
I-IT MUST HAVE STARTED THAT NIGHT IN LONDON...
THAT NIGHT WAS THE STORMIEST OF HIS CAREER. THE WEATHER HAD BEEN AS BAD AS HIS TEMPER...
IT WAS THE NIGHT OF HIS RESIGNATION!!


SOMEHOW, THINGS HAD COME TO THIS POINT... THE ANGER HAD BURST FROM HIM AND BATTERED AGAINST THE CALM RESERVE OF THE MAN BEFORE HIM. HE WAS GRAVE, BUT SEEMINGLY UNAFFECTED.
THE NIGHT OUTSIDE ACCENTUATED THE CLIMAX OF THAT MOMENT--IT ROARED AND FLASHED AS HE'D THROWN THE ENVELOPE CONTEMPTUOUSLY AT THE MAN. IT CONTAINED HIS LETTER OF RESIGNATION...
IT WAS A FITTING END TO HIS RESPONSIBILITIES. HE REMEMBERED LEAVING THE OFFICE AND STAMPING ANGRILY THROUGH DESERTED, STORM-LIT CORRIDORS...
BUT, THERE WERE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS ACT THAT NIGHT, WHICH THE PRISONER IS UNAWARE OF. HE DOES NOT KNOW OF THE COMPUTERIZED ROOM WHERE HIS RECORDER CARD HAD BEEN AUTOMATICALLY DRAWN FROM ITS PLACE...
HE COULD NOT HAVE SEEN HIS CARD AS IT DROPPED OUT ON A MOVING FEEDER BELT AND RUSHED ALONG AN ALMOST ENDLESS LINE OF FILING CABINETS...
SOON AFTER, A DRAWER HAD OPENED OF ITS OWN VOLITION. THE PRISONER'S CARD WAS DROPPED IN AND DRAWN INTO A CABINET OF A SPECIFIC CATEGORY. THE CARD WOULD REST THERE. BUT FOR THE PRISONER, IT MEANT A SUDDEN DEPARTURE FOR A JOURNEY TO THE UNKNOWN...
RESIGNED

enter The Village's control room. They find Number Two, who says that Number Six is dead. They then discover nuclear missiles which Number Two activates, destroying The Village.

We later see Number Six and Alice sitting on a park bench. Number Six leaves as Meagan, Alice's daughter, arrives. The happy reunion of mother and daughter is watched on a video monitor housed in a new version of The Village control room – in the Houses of Parliament.

The four issues were collected into a graphic novel with a new prologue and a new title (**Shattered Visage**) in 1990.

Despite running for only 17 episodes (McGoohan himself had initially intended only to make seven), *The Prisoner* has had a huge influence on popular culture worldwide.

Plans for a follow-up or revamp have often been mooted. Most recently Sky has a TV series currently planned for release set in 2008 while Universal Pictures is developing a Christopher Nolan-directed feature film. But can a concept which was such an integral part of the 1960s be successfully updated for a new century?

Or, to spin your original catchphrase, Number Six: will *we* be seeing *you*?

NUMBER SIX IN COMICS:

the prisoner
dean motter
mark askwith
david hornung
book a
the prisoner
b

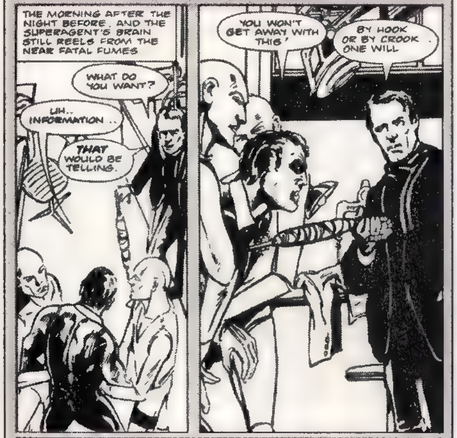
*While Jack Kirby's Marvel test and **Shattered Visage** are perhaps the most well-known **Prisoner** comics, there have been many homage and spoofs of the series...*

The earliest is probably in Britain's **Smash!** comic, 1968. In one *Charlie's Choice* strip, drawn by Brian Lewis, Number Six escapes the Village – leaping out of the TV!

Fantastic Four
THE NAME IS DOOM!

In 1969, Stan Lee and Jack Kirby delivered a *Prisoner*-inspired story for **Fantastic Four** #84, with Dr Doom taking on the role of Number Two and the superhero quartet finding themselves trapped in a dangerous 'Village' in the villain's home country of Latveria.

Dez Skinn also showed himself to be a *Prisoner* fan in his **Warrior** strip *Big Ben* (1984, drawn by Will Simpson), as one serial featured Welsh terrorist Dai the Death – clearly modelled on Number Six, right down to paraphrasing lines from the *Prisoner* credit sequence.

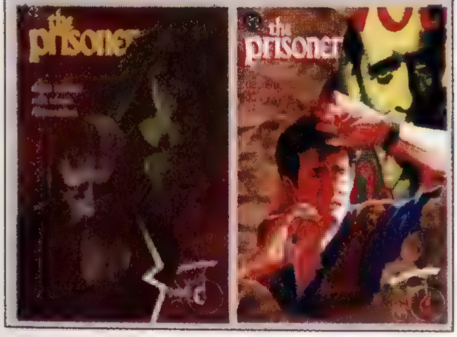

THE MORNING AFTER THE NIGHT BEFORE, AND THE SUPERAGENT'S BRAIN STILL REELS FROM THE NEAR FATAL FUMES
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
UH.. INFORMATION ..
THAT WOULD BE TELLING.
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!
BY HOOK OR BY CROOK, ONE WILL

Grant Morrison's **The Invisibles** (DC/Vertigo, 1994) also displays some *Prisoner*-inspired influences – most prominently in the form of super-secret agent Jon Six.

Gary Spencer Millidge's continuing tale of intriguing mystery in an isolated village, **Strangehaven** (1995 to date) subtlely blends *The Prisoner* with *Twin Peaks*.

Inspired by TV series *The Sandbaggers*, Greg Rucka's **Queen and Country** (Oni Press, 2001 to date) also pays tribute to *The Prisoner* with its secret agent Tara Chace, every bit as disillusioned with her job as Number Six.

More recently, cartoonist and keen *Prisoner* fan Lew Stringer has also parodied the show in the unlikeliest of titles: **Combat Colin** and **Sonic the Hedgehog**!

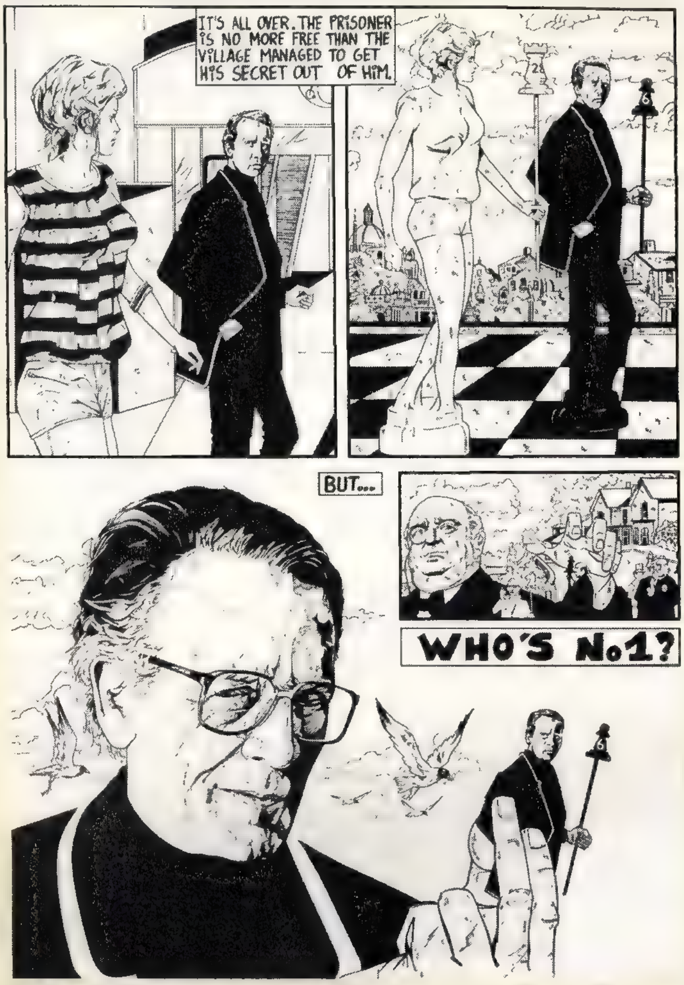

the prisoner
the prisoner

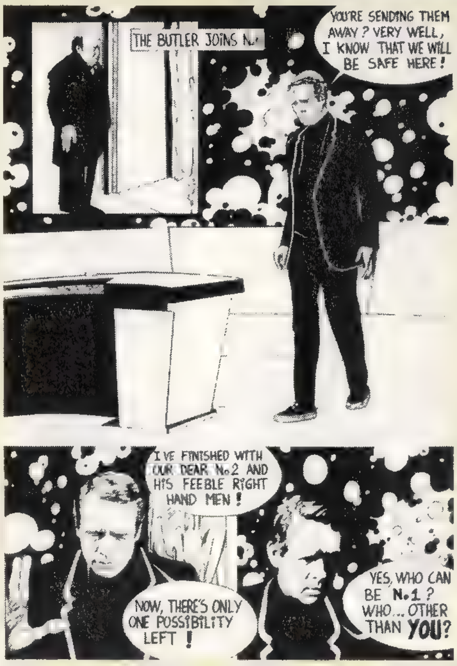
Who is No. 1?

Ignoring that the letters and number in "No. 1" tell us the answer (ie: no-one!), this is also the title of an excellent comic produced by two French *Prisoner* fans and distributed by Six of One, the Official *Prisoner* fan club.

Published at almost the same time as DC's 1988 four-parter, this could almost be viewed as a "lost episode" as it fits neatly into the structure of the original series, following the Prisoner's obsession with uncovering the identity of No. 1.

While all US attempts have glossed over any close likenesses in favour of a standard comicbook look, here artist Phillipe Cottarel painstaking maintains a photographic feel [examples right and below], with very stylish frame compositions also reflecting the original TV series. Unlike the early **Prisoner** paperbacks, Jean-Michel Philibert's script is itself a worthy add-on to *The Prisoner* canon. Recommended.


IT'S ALL OVER. THE PRISONER IS NO MORE FREE THAN THE VILLAGE MANAGED TO GET HIS SECRET OUT OF HIM.
BUT...
WHO'S No.1?


THE BUTLER JOINS N.
YOU'RE SENDING THEM AWAY? VERY WELL, I KNOW THAT WE WILL BE SAFE HERE!
I'VE FINISHED WITH OUR DEAR No.2 AND HIS FEEBLE RIGHT HAND MEN!
NOW, THERE'S ONLY ONE POSSIBILITY LEFT!
YES, WHO CAN BE No.1? WHO... OTHER THAN YOU?

WEB LINKS

Six of One *www.sixofone.org.uk*
The official *Prisoner* fan club which also produces a regular magazine about the series. For details, send an SAE to *Six of One, Box 66, Ipswich IP2 9TZ*

The Unmutual *www.theunmutual.co.uk*
Created by Lew Stringer, this site is independent of any organisation or society. Set up in 2002 to enable *Prisoner* fans to keep in touch and to read about events, news and merchandise without having to join a fan club. Now run by Rick Davy.

The Prisoner Online *http://theprisoneronline.com*
News items about the planned film and new TV series are included on this site.

TPF *www.thepennyfarthing.com*
Includes articles previously published in the printed magazine **TPF (The Prisoner Fanzine)** plus photos of Portmeirion, and an exclusive collection of black and white pictures taken during the actual filming of *The Prisoner* in Portmeirion.

Ron Grainer *www.rongrainer.org.uk/index.php*
Tribute site to the composer of *The Prisoner* theme tune and much more, including *Doctor Who* and *Man in a Suitcase.*

Danger Man/Prisoner *www.mcgoohan.co.uk*

Comics Economics

Top 100 US comics sales for March 2007

CIVIL WAR
CAPTAIN AMERICA
DEATH OF THE DREAM

Captain America in at #1

THE INITIATIVE
THE MIGHTY AVENGERS
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE

Mighty Avengers in at #2

Rank	Prior	Title, Issue, Price & Estimated Direct Market Orders	Publisher
1	(21)	Captain America 25 $3.99 (290,514)	Marvel
2	(N)	Mighty Avengers 1 $3.99 (141,288)	Marvel
3	(=)	Amazing Spider-Man 539 $2.99 (137,730	Marvel
4	(N)	Civil War Initiative $4.99 (137,658)	Marvel
5	(2)	Dark Tower Gunslinger Born 2 $3.99 (136,338)	Marvel
6	(66)	Justice League of America 6 $3.50 (130,099)	DC Comics
7	(4)	New Avengers 28 $2.99 (119,514)	Marvel
8	(N)	Civil War Confession $2.99 (112,422)	Marvel
9	(N)	Buffy the Vampire Slayer 1 $2.99 (109,919)	Dark Horse
10	(6)	Wolverine 52 $2.99 (95,276)	Marvel
11	(=)	52 Week 44 $2.50 (94,246)	DC Comics
12	(11)	52 Week 45 $2.50 (94,085)	DC Comics
13	(12)	52 Week 46 $2.50 (93,513)	DC Comics
14	(13)	52 Week 47 $2.50 (92,676)	DC Comics
15	(=)	Justice Society of America 4 $2.99 (84,449)	DC Comics
16	(17)	Uncanny X-Men 484 $2.99 (82,043)	Marvel
17	(16)	Batman 664 $2.99 (80,497)	DC Comics
18	(16)	Fantastic Four 543 $3.99 (78,823)	Marvel
19	(18)	Superman Batman 32 $2.99 (77,905)	DC Comics
20	(18)	Moon Knight 8 $2.99 (77,390)	Marvel
21	(N)	Marvel Zombies Army of Darkness 1 $2.99 (76,875)	Marvel/Dynamite
22	(19)	X-Men 197 $2.99 (75,184)	Marvel
23	(18)	Wolverine Origins 12 $2.99 (74,750)	Marvel
24	(18)	Fantastic Four 544 $2.99 (73,880)	Marvel
25	(20)	Ultimate Spider-Man 106 $2.99 (73,832)	Marvel
26	(25)	Ultimate Spider-Man 107 $2.99 (72,818)	Marvel
■ **International direct market retail orders estimated below 70,000**			
27	(23)	Action Comics 847 $2.99 (64,679)	DC Comics
28	(21)	Wonder Woman 5 $2.99 (64,414)	DC Comics
29	(13)	Brave & Bold 2 $2.99 (64,357)	DC Comics
30	(25)	Ultimate Power 4 $2.99 (63,818)	Marvel
31	(24)	Ultimate X-Men 80 $2.99 (63,037)	Marvel
32	(28)	Wonder Woman 6 $2.99 (62,458)	DC Comics
33	(27)	Green Lantern 18 $2.99 (61,661)	DC Comics
34	(27)	Teen Titans 44 $2.99 (61,572)	DC Comics
35	(25)	Thunderbolts 112 $2.99 (61,395)	Marvel
36	(N)	Civil War Battle Damage Report $3.99 (60,638)	Marvel
■ **International direct market retail orders estimated below 60,000**			
37	(31)	Superman 660 $2.99 (57,169)	DC Comics
38	(29)	Sensational Spider-Man 36 $2.99 (56,139)	Marvel
39	(33)	Detective Comics 829 $2.99 (52,943)	DC Comics
40	(39)	Onslaught Reborn 3 $2.99 (52,420)	Marvel
41	(39)	Detective Comics 830 $2.99 (52,395)	DC Comics
42	(34)	Supergirl 15 $2.99 (51,083)	DC Comics
43	(36)	Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man 18 $2.99 (50,665)	Marvel
44	(37)	Ultimate Fantastic Four 40 $2.99 (50,488)	Marvel
45	(35)	Punisher War Journal 5 $2.99 (50,190)	Marvel
■ **International direct market retail orders estimated below 50,000**			
46	(32)	Black Panther 26 $2.99 (48,717)	Marvel
47	(43)	Spider-Man Reign 4 $3.99 (48,298)	Marvel
48	(39)	Ghost Rider 9 $2.99 (48,041)	Marvel
49	(42)	Incredible Hulk 104 $2.99 (47,823)	Marvel
50	(41)	Daredevil 95 $2.99 (46,455)	Marvel
51	(40)	Flash Fastest Man Alive 10 $2.99 (46,133)	DC Comics
52	(45)	X-23 Target X 4 $2.99 (41,858)	Marvel
53	(66)	Ms Marvel 13 $2.99 (40,836)	Marvel
54	(38)	Ghost Rider Trail of Tears 2 $2.99 (40,200)	Marvel
■ **International direct market retail orders estimated below 40,000**			
55	(27)	Authority 2 $2.99 (39,886)	DC Comics
56	(46)	Batman Confidential 4 $2.99 (38,735)	DC Comics
57	(47)	X-Factor 17 $2.99 (38,067)	Marvel
58	(49)	New X-Men 36 $2.99 (37,044)	Marvel
59	(42)	Superman Confidential 4 $2.99 (36,779)	DC Comics
60	(48)	Silent War 3 $2.99 (36,151)	Marvel
61	(50)	Newuniversal 4 $2.99 (34,743)	Marvel
62	(54)	Green Lantern Corps 10 $2.99 (34,227)	DC Comics
63	(44)	Ultimate Vision 3 $2.99 (33,455)	Marvel
64	(61)	Punisher 45 $2.99 (33,245)	Marvel
65	(57)	Star Wars Legacy 9 $2.99 (33,084)	Dark Horse
66	(59)	Ion 12 $2.99 (3,020)	DC Comics
67	(60)	Outsiders 46 $2.99 (32,577)	DC Comics
68	(65)	Star Wars Legacy 10 $2.99 (32,320)	Dark Horse
69	(58)	Fantastic Four End 6 $2.99 (32,295)	Marvel
70	(52)	Shazam Monster Society of Evil 2 $5.99 (31,957)	DC Comics
71	(62)	Nightwing 130 $2.99 (31,788)	DC Comics
72	(64)	Green Arrow 72 $2.99 (31,144)	DC Comics
73	(62)	Anita Blake Guilty Pleasures 5 $2.99 (31,136)	Marvel
74	(N)	Marvel Spotlight Civil War Aftermath $2.99 (31,072)	Marvel
75	(63)	Exiles 92 $2.99 (30,396)	Marvel
76	(70)	Birds of Prey 104 $2.99 (28,464)	DC Comics
77	(71)	Robin 160 $2.99 (27,659)	DC Comics
78	(69)	Squadron Supreme Hyperion Vs Nighthawk 3 $2.99 (27,482)	Marvel
79	(73)	Cable Deadpool 38 $2.99 (26,258)	Marvel
80	(78)	Fables 58 $2.99 (26,065)	DC Comics
81	(80)	Fables 59 $2.99 (25,815)	DC Comics
82	(77)	Y The Last Man 55 $2.99 (25,300)	DC Comics
83	(75)	Conan 38 $2.99 (25,236)	Dark Horse
84	(=)	Spawn 165 $2.95 (24,519)	Image
85	(76)	Spirit 4 $2.99 (24,383)	DC Comics
86	(80)	X-Men First Class 7 $2.99 (24,028)	Marvel
87	(84)	Spawn 166 $2.95 (23,690)	Image
88	(N)	Transformers Prime Directive Movie Prequel 1 $3.99 (23,658)	IDW
89	(82)	Heroes For Hire 8 $2.99 (22,563)	Marvel
90	(97)	Uncle Sam & Freedom Fighters 8 $2.99 (22,507)	DC Comics
91	(86)	Martian Manhunter 8 $2.99 (22,185)	DC Comics
92	(87)	JSA Classified 24 $2.99 (22,113)	DC Comics
93	(N)	Helmet of Fate Zauriel 1 $2.99 (21,871)	DC Comics
94	(92)	JLA Classified 36 $2.99 (21,799)	DC Comics
95	(81)	Midnighter 5 $2.99 (21,452)	DC Comics
96	(91)	Gen13 6 $2.99 (21,356)	DC Comics
97	(101)	Walking Dead 36 $2.99 (21,291)	Image
98	(93)	Red Sonja 20 $2.99 (21,275)	Dynamite
99	(98)	Shadowpact 11 $2.99 (21,114)	DC Comics
100	(83)	Punisher Presents Barracuda Max 2 $3.99 (20,969)	Marvel

With thanks to Milton Griepp and ICv2.com

Advance Listings

READERS: You can use this section as an order form with your direct market store or mail order supplier. Simply mark the items you require, copy or remove these pages (or list them on a separate piece of paper) and give it to your supplier, together with a note of your name, address and phone number to guarantee not missing any of the new titles being published. Certain suppliers may not accept standing orders, so check with them first. All prices of US titles listed are in dollars. Shipping dates given are the earliest date product will reach stores. All dates, prices and information are assumed to be accurate as provided by publishers. Titles are 32-page colour unless stated.

Compiled by Jim Hannah

ON SALE FROM

JULY 5

Dark Horse Comics

ONE SHOT **Aliens: Steel Egg** (John Shirley) Someone on Earth knew about the aliens. Someone battled them, and survived. Before Ripley, there was a first encounter. Aliens and humans have fought before... 250pg $6.99

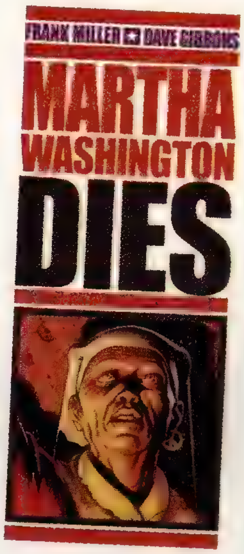
Fear Agent: The Last Goodbye 2 (Rick Remender & Tony Moore + Ande Parks) Alone and trapped in the middle of a power struggle between the three most powerful empires in the universe, Heath Huston and a handful of his neighbour Texans form a resistance battalion known as the Fear Agents in the hopes of revisiting the terror and suffering they've endured back upon the alien invaders. $2.99

CLOSE-UP

Martha Washington Dies

The year is 2095 and the day is the 100th birthday of Martha Washington. She is the leader of a small, resolute band that will not forfeit the pursuit of liberty – no matter what the cost. Today, the cost will be high. Martha has seen much in her 100 years, from the triumphs and tragedies of the battlefront, to the deepest reaches of space. Today, she will finally see the truth. 24pg $3.50

Frank Miller & Dave Gibbons + Angus Mckie | DC Comics | 24pg | $3.50



ONE SHOT **Who Wants To Be A Superhero?: Feedback** (Stan Lee & Will Conrad + Joe Pimentel) Last summer, the SciFi Channel, Nash Entertainment, and comics legend Stan Lee helped turn an ordinary person into an actual comic-book superhero! This year they're set to do it again, and to kick things off, Dark Horse presents the origin of last year's winner, Feedback! 40pg $3.50

DC Comics

The All-New Atom 13 (Gail Simone & Mike Norton + Dan Green) The Search for Ray Palmer continues as the Atom finds himself with people who knew Palmer very well: the jungle-dwelling little people from Sword of the Atom! $2.99

NEW **Black Canary** 1 (Tony Bedard & Paulo Sequeira + Amilton Santos) The League of Assassins tracks Black Canary to Star City in an effort to liberate the child, Sin, they believe to be the DCU's next greatest assassin. $2.99

Countdown 43 (Paul Dini + Jimmy Palmiotti + Justin Gray & David Lopez) This year-long weekly series featuring a cast of hundreds kicks into high gear in its third month! ... $2.99

Danger Girl: Body Shots 4 (of 4; Andy Hartnell & Nick Bradshaw & Jim Charalampidis) With Abbey still missing, it's up to Sydney and Johnny Barracuda to track down their friend – and the Master Key. $2.99

Detective Comics 834 (Paul Dini & Don Kramer + Wayne Faucher) As Batman is brutally tortured in an inescapable deathtrap, the mortally wounded Zatanna is unable to speak the magic words to save them both! $2.99

The Exterminators 19 (Simon Oliver & Darick Robertson + John Lucas) The creepiest Exterminators arc yet starts here, with gleefully gruesome guest art by premier penciller Darick Robertson. Mature readers. ... $2.99

NEW **Faker** 1 (of 6; Mike Carey & Jock) In the numbing cold of a Minnesota winter, Jessie Kidby and her freshman friends kick off their second semester with a wild party. But in the aftermath of the big blow-out, things start to go horribly wrong for all of them. $2.99

Jonah Hex 21 (Justin Gray & Jimmy Palmiotti + Phil Noto) Jonah Hex meets one of America's greatest inventors… with explosive results! $2.99

Justice League Unlimited 35 (Mateo Casali & Scott Cohen + Al Nickerson) Natasha Irons is tired of her Uncle Steel getting to do all the heroics in the family. But an attack from the Millennium Giants may prove she's in over her head! $2.25

Justice Society of America 7 (Geoff Johns & Dale Eaglesham) What happens when Nathan Heywood, the grandson of Commander Steel, awakens to find himself completely and utterly alone in a way he never thought possible? $2.99

Looney Tunes 152 (various) Marvin the Martian has transported Bugs Bunny to the deadly planet of the Glambots! How will Bugs escape…or resist their deadly charms? ... $2.25

MAD 480 (The Usual Gang of Idiots) Because you demanded it! Mad hilarity, at your fingertips. 48pg b&w $3.99

Midnighter 9 (Jimmy Palmiotti & Justin Gray + Brian Stelfreeze) On a space station containing inhabitants infected with a deadly virus, Midnighter fights to contain a potential world-wide plague – one that will start when the satellite re-enters the atmosphere and rains down on a major metropolitan city! $2.99

Nightwing 134 (Marv Wolfman & Jamal Igle + Keith Champagne) Yesterday, he challenged the Crimelords of Europe, Asia and Africa, and defeated them. Today, he controls the 21 Tigers, an international gang of murderers. But there was a time when Dick Grayson called him friend and mentor – and they both loved the same woman. $2.99

Outsiders 49 (Judd Winick + Greg Rucka & Matthew Clark + Wayne Faucher) The White King calls on the Dark Knight to aid the combined Outsiders-Checkmate strikeforce, even as one member is exposed by the events of Amazons Attack! $2.99

Scalped 7 (Jason Aaron & R.M. Guera) On the surface, the grand opening of the Crazy Horse Casino goes off in magnificent fashion, but behind the scenes is anything but for Chief Red Crow. Mature readers. $2.99

Supergirl 19 (Joe Kelly & Alé Garze + Marlo Alquiza) Superstar writer Joe Kelly concludes his Supergirl run with a gruelling fight between Supergirl and Superman! Is the only way to save the universe to kill the Man of Steel? $2.99

Superman 665 (Kurt Busiek & Rick Leonardi + Ande Parks) A special Countdown dossier issue with amazing guest art by Rick Leonardi & Ande Parks, revealing for the first time how Jimmy Olsen came to the Daily Planet! $2.99

Supernatural: Origins 3 (Peter Johnson & Matthew Dow Smith) The life and training of a Hunter is difficult and rigorous...and John Winchester is starting at the beginning! $2.99

Welcome To Tranquility 8 (Gail Simone & Jason Pearson, ChrisCross and Georges Jeanty) Join the fearsome Lindo Sisters in a time when they weren't so respectable, see the rock n' roll origin of the gravedigger Zombie Zeke, and follow master thief the Emoticon as he attempts a score no other criminal would dare! $2.99

Y: The Last Man 57 (Brian K. Vaughan & Pia Guerra + José Marzan Jr.) As the series races for its conclusion on the dangerous streets of Paris, will the last man finally enjoy a long-awaited reunion? Mature readers. $2.99

ON SALE FROM

JULY 11

Dark Horse Comics

ONE SHOT **Blade of the Immortal** 127 (*Life In Death;* Hiroaki Samura) Catch up with Giichi and Hyakurin, the two former Mugai-ryū warriors who have been somewhat on the sidelines as Rin hunts for the missing Manji. b&w ... $2.99

B.P.R.D.: Garden of Souls 5 (of 5; Mike Mignola + John Arcudi & Guy Davis + Dave Stewart) As events in Indonesia rise to a climax, Abe and Daimio race to stop the apocalyptic plans of the bizarre figures from Abe's past. $2.99

ONE SHOT **Martha Washington Dies** (Frank Miller & Dave Gibbons + Angus Mckie) *See Close-Up, left.*

Star Wars: Legacy 14 (*Krayt* 1 of 6; John Ostrander & Jan Duursema + Dan Parsons) Cade Skywalker has done some bad things in his life, but possibly none worse than turning over a captive Jedi – Master Hosk – to the Sith. Now he has come to Coruscant to atone for his sins, and hopefully set Hosk free. But Hosk isn't the only one Cade has crossed, and a chance run-in with a couple of old "friends" may send him on a new path. 40pg $2.99

Star Wars: Rebellion 8 (Rob Williams & Michel Lacombe + Wil Glass) A secret of tremendous importance to the Empire lies hidden on the planet Ahakista, and when a local civil war threatens it, Darth Vader will take its protection into his own hands! 40pg $2.99

DC Comics

Batman Confidential 7 (Michael Green & Denys Cowan + John Floyd) What kind of person becomes a Joker? Writer Michael Green (Heroes writer/producer) and classic Batman artist Denys Cowan shed light on who the Joker was before he became the Joker…and how he and Batman crossed paths even before the day he was created. $2.99

The Batman Strikes! 35 (J. Torres & Christopher Jones & Terry Beatty) The Riddler starts a contest with the supervillain robot known only as D.A.V.E. for the right to destroy the Batman! Batgirl and Robin will be in a race against time to riddle their way through some of the most dangerous and ingenious traps. $2.25

Cartoon Network Action Pack 15 (various) Ben blasts off for space adventure! Plus, learn the secret scoop about Wildmutt and Heatblast! $2.25

Countdown 42 (Paul Dini + Sean McKeever & Carlos Magno) Learn more about the search for Ray Palmer! $2.99

DmZ 21 (*Friendly Fire* 4 of 5; Brian Wood & Riccardo Burchielli) Matty is called in for an exclusive, on-the-record interview with a top-level commander who was in charge the day of the brutal Day 204 massacre. Mature. . $2.99

Fables 63 (Bill Willingham & Mark Buckingham + Steve Leialoha) As plans are being set to destroy the Imperial Homeworld where it's most vulnerable, various Fables are returning home. Mature readers. $2.99

NEW **Friday The 13th: Pamela's Tale** 1 (Marc Andreyko & Shawn Moll) The sad, bloody saga of Jason Vorhees is well-chronicled, but one story element of his origin remains untold – that of his mother, Pamela Vorhees! Mature readers. $2.99

Gen^{13} #10 (Gail Simone & Carlo Barberi + Drew Geraci) The kids are enjoying the splendour of small time life and a taste of what a 'normal' life with superpowers could be like. But will recent events catch up with them in a big way? $2.99

NEW **Green Arrow: Year One** 1 (of 6; Andy Diggle & Jock) Oliver Queen is a frivolous playboy with little care for anyone or anything – apparently even himself. But when he's double-crossed and marooned on a desert island he finds that he does care about something... justice! $2.99

Green Lantern 21 (Geoff Johns & Ivan Reis + Oclair Albert) Sinestro's army of fear has gathered: Arkillo! Karu-Sil! The Cyborg-Superman! And hundreds more of the most terrifying villains the universe has ever seen! $2.99

Grifter & Midnighter 5 (of 6; Chuck Dixon) Worldbeaters or world-class chumps? A pair of missions collided with bloody results. Now Grifter and Midnighter find out that all their troubles started a billion years and a zillion light years away. $2.99

JLA Classified 40 (*Kid Amazo* 4 of 5; Peter Milligan & Carlos D'Anda) Kid Amazo has finally embraced his programming and decided to be the chip off the old byte that his android creator, Amazo, wanted him to be. $2.99

MAD Kids 8 (The Usual Gang of Idiots) Don't miss fun-filled games, puzzles, interviews, posters and lots of laughs – plus the all-new adventures of Spy vs. Spy Jr. 64pg $4.99

Shadowpact 15 (Bill Willingham & Tom Derenick + Wayne Faucher) Zauriel joins Shadowpact officially, Blue

Devil learns what he needs to do to save his parents, and Doctor Gotham strikes at last! $2.99

Stormwatch: Phd 9 (Christos Gage & Andy Smith) A horrible crime has been committed, and a key cast member lies dying. Officer John Doran must find out who's responsible, knowing the assailant either comes from the ranks of StormWatch Prime...or from his own teammates in StormWatch: PHD! $2.99

Superman Confidential 6 (Darwyn Cooke & Tim Sale) The stunning tale of the origin of Kryptonite by the team of Darwyn Cooke and Tim Sale concludes! $2.99

Wonder Woman 11 (Will Pfeifer & Paco Diaz) In the midst of all-out war, Sarge Steel has gone missing, and Nemesis is bound and determined to find his missing boss! But with Wonder Woman ready to take the battle to the heart of the enemy, will she have time to rescue Diana Prince's boss? . $2.99

ON SALE FROM

JULY 18

Dark Horse Comics

Conan 42 (Timothy Truman & Cary Nord + Richard Isanove) Free once again, Conan heads out to settle his debts, with the nobleman who engineered his escape and the wench who arranged for his capture! $2.99

The Goon 19 (Eric Powell) The regular ongoing series picks up right where it left off as the Zombie Priest's sanity cracks up. His endless swarms of beastly little minions attack the Goon and Franky en masse, and there's no telling how long the brand-new Norton's Pub will last this time around! $2.99

ONE SHOT **Grendel: Behold The Devil** 0 (Matt Wagner) Containing a prologue and unseen preview artwork to the upcoming series, this book provides an exclusive look at Wagner's return to his signature creation. b&w&r 16pg $0.50

NEW **Zero Killer** 1 (of 6; Arvid Nelson & Matt Camp + Dave Stewart) The creator of Rex Mundi presents his vision of a shattered alternate future, as brutal gangs struggle for supremacy in a New York City ravaged by nuclear war. b&w $2.99

DC Comics

Aquaman: Sword of Atlantis 54 (Tad Williams & Shawn McManus) Atlantean intrigue comes to a head as Arthur investigates what's become of the Dweller in the Depths! Plus, witness the amazing return of the human Flying Fish! $2.99

Army@Love 5 (Rick Veitch & Veitch + Gary Erskine) Loman learns of Allie's sudden disappearance from Edgefield just as his light-fingered past catches up with him. $2.99

Birds of Prey 108 (Gail Simone & Nicola Scott + Doug Hazlewood) Oracle tracks down Misfit's parents – but only after a knockdown, drag-out fight with Spy Smasher for control of the Birds of Prey! $2.99

Black Canary 2 (Tony Bedard & Paulo Sequeira + Amilton Santos) The League of Assassins tracks Black Canary to Star City in an effort to liberate the child, Sin, they believe to be the DCU's next greatest assassin. $2.99

The Brave and the Bold 5 (Mark Waid & George Pérez + Bob Wiacek) All roads lead back to Earth for the final showdown over the Book of Destiny, whose possessor will have the knowledge of all that has ever been or will be! $2.99

Catwoman 69 (Will Pfeifer & David Lopez + Alvaro Lopez) The identity that Selina Kyle built for herself to protect her baby daughter is being destroyed at the hands of Hammer and Sickle, and that's just the beginning. $2.99

Checkmate 16 (Greg Rucka + Judd Winick & Joe Bennett + Jack Jadson) In a wrenching stand-alone story, the Black Queen and the White King wrestle with whether to resume their affair – as Checkmate welcomes her former torturer to the Royal Family! $2.99

Countdown 41 (Paul Dini + Adam Beechen & Dennis Calero) Travel into the Nanoverse! $2.99

Deadman 12 (Bruce Jones & John Watkiss) Eve Kendall's baby is about to be shot. Sarah is falling out of an airplane. Brandon can save only one of them. But he may discover that he's not the only person who finds life after death. Mature readers. $2.99

The Flash: The Fastest Man Alive 14 (Marc Guggenheim & Tony S. Daniel + Art Thibert) The Fastest Man Alive's world changes forever! . $2.99

Hellblazer 234 (Andy Diggle & Leonardo Manco) South London's Hunger Hill housing estate has long been a breeding ground for violence, crime and drug abuse. But when the cycle of misery takes a distinct turn for the supernatural, John Constantine discovers there's something worse at play than mere social deprivation. Mature readers. $2.99

The Highwaymen 2 (of 5; Marc Bernardin & Adam Freeman + Lee Garbett) The explosive miniseries continues as the Highwaymen, after surviving an ambush at their secret desert HQ, head south of the border to retrieve the package they were hired to transport: a college co-ed named Grace Anderson. $2.99

Justice League of America 11 (Brad Meltzer & Gene Ha) Two JLAers are buried alive! $2.99

The Legion of Super-Heroes in the 31st Century 4 (Christine Boylan & Steve Uy) It's just another day in the life of a half-living computer, half-teenaged super-hero: fighting crime, saving the galaxy, acing your final exams. $2.25

ONE SHOT **The Mad War On Bush** (The Usual Gang of Idiots) In a tribute befitting to the presidency of George W. Bush, MAD Magazine presents a hard-hitting satiric collection of articles on George W. Bush. $9.99

NEW **The Programme** 1 (of 12; Peter Milligan & C.P. Smith) In 1991, the Cold War ended without the two primary players ever facing each other in direct conflict. Now a long-forgotten Soviet weapon is awakened on one of America's many battlegrounds, threatening the global balance of power. Conventional warfare is suddenly outdated: the new weapons of mass destruction wield superpowers. Does America have an answer to...The Programme? $2.99

The Spirit 8 (Darwyn Cooke & Cooke + J. Bone) The Octopus has trapped the Spirit and Silk Satin in a water tower with a ticking nuke! The good news is Satin can disarm it. The bad news is she has amnesia. Can the Spirit jog her memory before Central City is destroyed? $2.99

Scooby-Doo 122 (various) Beware the Ides of...July? It's a mystery of national proportions and the Scooby Gang needs your help! $2.25

Superman/Batman 38 (Alan Burnett & Dustin Nguyen + Derek Fridolfs) A major villain returns, and it will have repercussions across the entire DC Universe! And what's the Scarecrow have to do with all this? $2.99

Testament 20 (Douglas Rushkoff & Liam Sharp) Alec stabs Fallow in the heart – but killing the man doesn't kill the AI coursing through this Pharaoh's veins. Mature readers. $2.99

ONE SHOT **The Texas Chainsaw Massacre: About A Boy** 1 (Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning + Joel Gomez) Before Thomas Hewitt became the infamous killer Leatherface, he was a troubled teenager attempting to fit in with others his age, but Thomas harboured a dark secret – an overwhelming lust for blood and violence that corrupted his soul. $2.99

ON SALE FROM

JULY 25

Dark Horse Comics

Hellboy: Darkness Calls 4 (of 6; Mike Mignola & Duncan Fegredo + Dave Stewart) The Baba Yaga enlists the help of a deathless Russian warrior who may be more than a match for Hellboy. $2.99

Speak of the Devil 1 (of 6; Gilbert Hernandez) There's a peeping Tom prowling the neighbourhood. Eyewitness reports vary, but one thing is agreed upon: he wears a Devil mask. b&w 24pg $3.50

Star Wars Knights of the Old Republic 19 (John Jackson Miller & Harvey Tolibao + Michael Atiyeh) A new story arc begins as a megalomaniacal businessman unveils a plot that will have dire consequences for the Republic, the Mandalorians, and the galaxy they're warring over! 40pg $2.99

NEW **Translucent** Vol 1 (Kazuhiro Okamoto) Shizuka is an introverted girl, dealing with schoolwork, boys, and a medical condition that begins to turn her invisible! b&w 192pg $9.95

Usagi Yojimbo 104 (Stan Sakai) Time is running out for Lord Goyo's sick daughter and so is the patience of her father! Entrusting the fate of his offspring to the renowned healer Priest Jizonobu, Lord Goyo's faith has soured as his child's mysterious malady has progressed from bad to worse. b&w 24pg $2.99

DC Comics

Action Comics 852 (*3-2-1-Action!* 1 of 3; Kurt Busiek & Brad Walker + John Livesay) Superman has always been Superman's pal. Will he now become Superman's partner? $2.99

Amazons Attack 4 (of 6; Will Pfeifer & Pete Woods) The battle rages on! Another country joins the fight as a new, deadly opponent enters the fray! $2.99

American Virgin 17 (Steven T. Seagle & Becky Cloonan + Jim Rugg) At the end of their rope and the end of their budget in Bangkok, Thailand, practicing virgin Adam Chamberlain sees no option but to call home for cash. Reaching his one-time hit man, Mel, Adam is given not only new funding for his global odyssey, but also a lead on a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Mature readers. $2.99

Illuminations

Martin "Biff" Averre shines his light on the best of the July and August releases

DARK Horse has a veritable cornucopia of top quality product for July and August: **Buffy** continues to grow in sales drawing in yet more new people to the comic genre as they pick up on **Season Eight** the only way they can; **Rex Mundi** continues to weave its eclectic mixture of religion, magic and history; **Conan** brings us the seminal *Rogues In The House* story and **Hellboy** is drawing to a climatic conclusion.

There's also **Speak of the Devil**, **Love & Rockets** co-creator Gilbert Hernandez' new six-issue series plus it's the 25th anniversary of **Grendel** and Matt Wagner returns to his seminal work with a 16-page primer for the upcoming series **Grendel: Behold The Devil**. Top this off with a new, bimonthly ongoing **Emily The Strange**, **B.P.R.D.** in a new six-issue series, the 25th anniversary of **Groo** in a cheese dipping new one-shot by Mark Evanier and Sergio Aragones, the one and only **Groo** creative team, and finally the eagerly awaited six issue **Umbrella Academy** series by Gerard 'My Chemical Romance' Way illustrated by the acclaimed Gabriel Ba and you must see that to ignore Dark Horse in August would be tantamount to folly.

DC after a quiet July is exploding in August with a multitude of series, one-shots and minis, most originating from **52**. After several months of solid concentration on its core titles it has gone into overdrive with: **Countdown To Adventure**, **Black Adam: The Dark Age**, **52: Aftermath - The Four Horsemen**, **Outsiders: Five Of A Kind**, **Batman/Lobo: Deadly Serious**, **Metal Men** and **All New Booster Gold**, my pick of the crop This time-spanning series will be at the hub of the ravaged time stream as events unfold in **Countdown**. In fact there is a back-up feature included titled **52 Pick-up**. Written by Geoff Johns - the architect behind **52** - and illustrated by Dan Jurgens and Norm Rapmund this series is, I feel, a must-have companion to **Countdown**.

The other key title all DC fans should latch on to is **The Flash: The Fastest Man Alive**. For several months now DC has been encouraging retailers with various incentives to increase their orders. No reason given, and I bet few retailers, myself included, have actually bothered to order too many extras. Now I am regretting this as it has just hit me that The Flash and The Speed Force were integral to **Crisis** and all that followed. Run on down to your local store and place a firm order now and say that Biff sent you.

Lastly, all Eric Powell fans and all Superman fans will want to pick up **Action Comics #855-857** as Bizarro returns for a story that takes us to the very heart of Bizarro World itself. This am not a must, am appalled at Eric and not what Bizarro World am is.

The power house of the two months is Marvel. Last year it was **Civil War**, this year think Hulk...

World War Hulk is a five-issue miniseries with multiple crossovers and spin-off series. It will be the slugfest to end all slugfests with the Incredible Hulk going head to head over the next six months with all the Marvel major hitters as he seeks revenge for the destruction of his planet kingdom Sakaar. The infamous Marvel Illuminati, Black Bolt, Tony Stark, Reed Richards and Doctor Strange exiled the Hulk to a supposedly uninhabited planet but the ship went off course and landed on Sakaar. Here the Hulk became the ruler and found love until the day the ship that took him there went into nuclear melt-down and destroyed nearly all life on the planet. The Hulk is now back and seeking revenge. Check out **World War Hulk: Front Line**, **World War Hulk: X-Men**, **World War Hulk: Gamma Corps**, **Avengers: The Initiative #4**, **Ghost Rider**, **Heroes For Hire**, **Iron Man**, **Irredeemable Ant-man** and, of course, **Incredible Hulk**.

The Order is Tony Stark's newest Initiative team and who better to bring this new team to life with true style than Barry Kitson with scripts by Matt Fraction. Avenger teams are the new 'X' teams and this will be one of the best.

Final words on Marvel for the month of August: **Spider-Man/Red Sonja** - a five-issue miniseries of scintillating sword and sorcery and **Daredevil #100** is a 104-page totally titanic tussle depicted by a red hot roster of art talent, including John Romita Sr.

I am so blown away by the July and August product that everything gets five for quality and for sales!

✊ ✊ ✊ ✊ ✊ $ $ $ $ $

*With 26 years of comic retail experience as Ace Comics, Biff has also produced his **Illuminations** monthly fanzine for 19 years before writing for **Comics International**.*

Batman 668 (Grant Morrison & J.H. Williams III) Batman, Robin and the Club of Heroes are stuck on an island rigged with elaborate death traps. $2.99

Blue Beetle 17 (John Rogers & Rafael Albuquerque) Surf's up! Racing around the globe trying to stop the Reach's building spree, Beetle gets into a blowout with Typhoon! $2.99

Cartoon Network Block Party 35 (various) The Foster's Friends are going to be part of the neighbourhood block party and don't know what to do to contribute. Leave it to Bloo to turn it into a circus…literally! $2.25

Countdown 40 (Paul Dini + Tony Bedard & Manuel Garcia) Features guest appearances by the Suicide Squad, the Penguin and the Atom! $2.99

Crossing Midnight 9 (Mike Carey & Jim Fern + Mark Pennington) At the end of a quest that has bounced her from a mystical realm to the mean streets of Tokyo, Toshi faces her ultimate opponent: The Gleaner, one of the five faces of Death itself. Mature. .. $2.99

Deathblow 6 (Brian Azzarello & Carlos D'Anda + Henry Flint) The walls are closing in on Deathblow. He's on his own – no place is safe and he doesn't have an ally in the world. But on the bright side, at least he knows he's not insane – everyone really is against him. $2.99

Green Lantern Corps 14 (Dave Gibbons & Patrick Gleason + Prentis Rollins) The attack on the Green Lantern Corps in Green Lantern 21 continues on multiple fronts, as Soranik finds a surprise waiting for her at home and Mogo is besieged by a new enemy. $2.99

Green Arrow: Year One 2 (of 6; Andy Diggle & Jock) Oliver Queen is a frivolous playboy with little care for anyone or anything – apparently even himself. But when he's double-crossed and marooned on a desert island he finds that he does care about something... justice! $2.99

FINAL ISSUE **Hawkgirl** 66 (Walter Simonson & Renato Arlem) After centuries, Hawkgirl and Hawkman catch up to the man who has cursed them to forever be apart…and they destroy Hath-Set, thus freeing them to be together. ... $2.99

Jack of Fables 13 (Bill Willingham + Matthew Sturges & Tony Akins + Andrew Pepoy) Jack's been impaled by the sword Excalibur, and only the One True King can remove it from him. Mature readers. $2.99

JSA Classified 28 (Fabian Nicieza & Steve Uy) Can a superhero be spread too thin, even when he has the powers of a magical genie at his disposal? $2.99

Ninja Scroll 11 (Kelley Puckett & Jonboy Meyers) When a young girl is kidnapped by a secretive clan of swordsmen, Jubei goes to the rescue. But when he's easily defeated and left for dead by just one of them, what hope does he have of defeating them all? .. $2.99

Robin 164 (Adam Beechen & Freddie E. Williams II) Dodge plans to launch an attack on Robin, but he can't succeed alone. $2.99

Supergirl and the Legion of Superheroes 32 (Tony Bedard & Dennis Calero) The Legionnaires have lost their long-time leader, Cosmic Boy – but was he captured by enemies or did he flee responsibility for his war crime? $2.99

Teen Titans 49 (Adam Beechen & Al Barrionuevo & Bit) Supergirl and Wonder Girl team up, but whose side are they on? $2.99

Teen Titans Go! 45 (J. Torres & Alex Serra + Fabio Laguna) Special Secret Origins issue! The real stories behind Beast Boy and Cybrog's pasts can finally be revealed! $2.25

Wetworks 11 (J.M. DeMatteis & Joel Gomez + Trevor Scott) Ab-Death, determined to bring Mother One back from the Deadworld before her soul is beyond his reach, risks his own soul and, in the process, learns a terrible truth about who and what he truly is. $2.99

RELEASED AND ON SALE IN

JULY

Marvel Comics

ONE SHOT **Captain America 25 – Director's Cut** (Ed Brubaker & Steve Epting) The events in Captain America 25 have been covered in news outlets nationwide, and this bonus edition brings you closer to the tragedy than ever before. 64pg $4.99

ONE SHOT **Civil War Chronicles** (various) A conflict has been brewing, threatening to pit friend against friend, brother against brother – and all it will take is a single misstep to cost thousands their lives and ignite the fuse! 72pg $4.99

NEW **Halo: Uprising** 1 (of 4; Brian Michael Bendis & Alex Maleev) The Eisner Award-winning team of superscribe Brian Michael Bendis and artist extraordinaire Alex Maleev unleash an epic story of mankind's struggle against the alien threat of the Covenant. 40pg $3.99

Dark Tower: The Gunslinger Born 6 (of 7; Peter David + Robin Furth & Jae Lee + Richard Isanove) The Affiliation, the group comprised of Roland's father and his forces, are being lured into a fatal trap in the Shaved Mountains. 48pg $3.99

NEW **Marvel Illustrated: The Man In The Iron Mask** 1 (of 6; Roy Thomas & Hugo Petrus) Deep inside the French prison known as the Bastille resides prisoner number 12, Philippe…who is none other than the twin brother of King Louis XIV. $2.99

Marvel Illustrated: Treasure Island 2 (of 6; Roy Thomas & Mario Gully) With a treasure map in hand, young Jim Hawkins sets out to find buried treasure – as a cabin boy! $2.99

Marvel Illustrated: The Last of the Mohicans 3 (of 6; Roy Thomas & Steve Kurth) The English are slaughtered at Fort William Henry and Alice is kidnapped by the Indian, Magua. Hawkeye and the Mohicans reach the ruined fort too late, and as they set out in pursuit of Alice, their canoes are tailed…by those of the ruthless Hurons! $2.99

Ultimate Fantastic Four 44 (Mike Carey & Pasqual Ferry) The Silver Surfer has arrived on Earth and no force can defeat him. But he is merely the herald of one whose power defies description – one to whom universes are mere stepping stones...Psycho Man!$2.99

Ultimate Spider-Man 111 (Brian Michael Bendis & Mark Bagley + Stuart Immonen) Peter and his Aunt May have perhaps the most important conversation of Peter's life. It's a gut-wrenching, emotional roller coaster you'll never forget. $2.99

Ultimate X-Men 84 (Robert Kirkman & Yanick Paquette) The X-Men are no more. Long live the X-Men! The man from the future, Bishop, completes his own team of mutants, ready to carry on the legacy of Charles Xavier. $2.99

Amazing Spider-Man 543 (J. Michael Straczynski & Ron Garney) One bullet changed everything for Peter Parker. The black-clad Spider-Man has battered his way to the man who gave the kill order – Wilson Fisk, a.k.a. the Kingpin. $2.99

Friendly Neighbourhood Spider-Man 22 (Peter David & Todd Nauck) The deadly plans of Miss Arrow stand revealed and the friends of Peter Parker may not live to see another day. $2.99

Sensational Spider-Man 39 (Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa & Lee Weeks) Eddie Brock is a man consumed. (his cancer, by demons real and imagined, by his past as the deadly villain Venom. $2.99

Spider-Man and the Fantastic Four 4 (of 4; Jeff Parker & Mike Wieringo) Reed Richards is back, and so is someone else. And that someone is mad. And not as charming as he was when we saw him last. Spider-Man and the Fantastic Four have figured out how to save the human race, but now they have to save the alien invaders as well! $2.99

Spider-Man Fairy Tales 3 (of 4; CB Cebulski & Kei Kobayashi) Spider-Man Fairy Tales continues with a retelling of Spider-Man's origin, fusing one of Marvel's most classic stories with a number of popular Japanese ghost stories and legends! $2.99

Amazing Spider-Girl 10 (Tom Defalco & Ron Frenz) Caught in a war between Maria Hill and the Contessa Valentina Allegro De Fountaine, Spider-Girl must also battle the reborn Carnage who is targeting the students and facility of Midtown High as well as the Parker family! $2.99

Spider-Man Loves Mary Jane 20 (Sean Mckeever & David Hahn) Three little words set Mary Jane's world ablaze...and by page 22, Nothing Will Ever Be The Same Again...again. And This Time, It's Personal. Etc. .. $2.99

NEW **Annihilation: Conquest – Star-Lord** 1 (of 4; Keith Giffen & Timothy Green) Peter Quill is once again Star-Lord – but what could possibly make him take on his former identity?$2.99

NEW **Annihilation: Conquest – Wraith** 1 (of 4; Javier Grillo-Marxuach & Kyle Hotz) Who is the haunted loner known as Wraith? What are his chilling powers, how did he get them, and what is the tragic quest that drives him? $2.99

NEW **Annihilation: Conquest – Quasar** 1 (of 4; Christos Gage & Mike Lilly) The new Quasar – a.k.a. Phyla-Vell, daughter of Captain Marvel – embarks on an epic journey that could bring an end to Conquest. $2.99

Nova 4 (Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning + Sean Chen) Rich Rider stood toe to toe with Annihilus, but can the last remaining Nova Corps centurion face a foe that has an entire galaxy on lockdown? $2.99

Blade 11 (Marc Guggenheim & Howard Chaykin) What story could be so big it needed two issues to tell? Only the climactic encounter between Blade and his newly-discovered father! ... $2.99

All-New Official Handbook Of The Marvel Universe A To Z: Update 3 (various) Do you think Death Metal is just a kind of music? Do you think the Zodiac Key belongs in your car's ignition? Did someone tell you that the Acts of Vengeance was a book in the Bible? Clear up your misconceptions with the latest Official Handbook! 64pg $3.99

Avengers Classic 2 (Dwayne Mcduffie & Michael Oeming) Stan and Jack bring you Avengers 2 in all its Hulk-out glory! Plus a bonus back-up story by Dwayne McDuffie and Mike Oeming featuring the Incredible Hulk. $2.99

Captain America 28 (Ed Brubaker & Steve Epting + Mike Perkins) As the world still reels from the tragic assassination of Captain America, the Skull and his minions begin to put their plans into motion, to deadly effect! $2.99

NEW **The Champions** 1 (Matt Fraction & Barry Kitson) Introduces the all-new and Los Angeles-based crown jewel in Tony Stark's Fifty-State Initiative. A team of Stark-branded and created super heroes, these young actors, athletes and models are infused with tremendous powers and even more tremendous fame, reborn as the First Super Hero Team of Tomorrow. $2.99

Daredevil 99 (Ed Brubaker & Michael Lark) The knife twists in Matt Murdock's back, and his life leaps off the rails once again. The villain who's been ripping Hell's Kitchen apart is revealed, as DD leaps into the fight of his life! $2.99

Daredevil: Battlin' Jack Murdock 2 (of 4; Carmine Di Giandomenico & Zeb Wells) A failed boxer turned mob enforcer, Battlin' Jack Murdock is living in an alcohol-soaked world where his fists are his only currency and his day job is filled with violence – until the birth of his son Matt leads him on a path to redemption, that is. $3.99

Ghost Rider: Trail of Tears 6 (of 6; Garth Ennis & Clayton Crain) It's High noon Hell! Five inhuman riders rode out of the red fog and unleashed hell on the little town and its people – five riders who came from the bowels of hell with blood in their eyes and their sights trained on the Spirit of Vengeance itself. Mature readers. $2.99

NEW **Fantastic Four and Power Pack** 1 (of 4; Fred Van Lente & Gurihiru) Jack Power has competition for BMOC of NYC's PS 616 ... the new kid in school, Franklin Richards, Son of a Genius! $2.99

Fantastic Five 1 (of 5; Tom Defalco & Ron Lim) The Human Torch and Lyja discuss the merits of leaving the F5 to form their own team and Sharon Ventura returns to confront her ex-husband the Thing. $2.99

Fantastic Five 2 (of 5; Tom Defalco & Ron Lim) The real Doctor Doom returns with cosmic-like power and a thirst for revenge on Reed Richards and the Sub-Mariner! $2.99

Immortal Iron Fist 8 (Ed Brubaker + Matt Fraction & David Aja) Generations of mystical war traditions await their chance to prove they have the greatest kung fu…to the Immortal Iron Fist! $2.99

World War Hulk 2 (of 5; Greg Pak & John Romita Jr) The Hulk has returned with a rage that knows no bounds – and he has a posse! Can the mightiest powerhouses of the Avengers stop the Hulk and his cadre of super-powered Warbound gladiators as they carve their path of mayhem through the concrete canyons of Manhattan? 40pg $3.99

World War Hulk: Front Line 2 (of 6; Paul Jenkins & various) Ben Urich and Sally Floyd, now running their own newspaper, attempt to single-handedly cover a story that even the big boys can't. $2.99

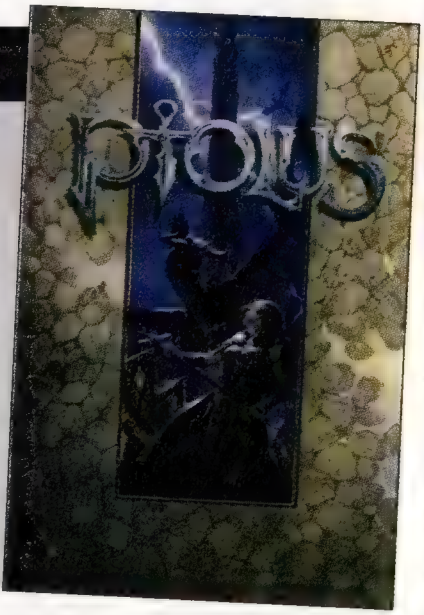
Incredible Hulk 108 (Greg Pak & Carlo Pagulayan) Teen genius Amadeus Cho has done the impossible – assembling a team of heroes crazy

CLOSE-UP

Monte Cook's Ptolus: City by the Spire

Sheva Callister thought she was retired after a tough treasure hunting expedition went sour and claimed the life of her partner, Parnell. But when a high-ranking noble from the city of Ptolus calls on her to retrieve a special brooch, she's willing to venture out on one last expedition.

Monte Cook & Canaan White + Luis Lira
Marvel Comics | 144pg | $14.99



enough to side with the Hulk upon his return to Earth. $2.99

NEW **World War Hulk: Gamma Corps** 1 (of 4; Frank Tieri & Carlos Ferreira) The Hulk. The Abomination. The Leader. The Harpy. Doc Samson. Born of gamma radiation, they represented a new chapter of humanity. Now, spawned through their respective DNA has come the next generation... the Gamma Corps. $2.99

World War Hulk: Gamma Corps 2 (of 4; Frank Tieri & Carlos Ferreira) Recruited and trained by the enigmatic General Ryker, the Gamma Corps' mission is a simple one – to kill the Incredible Hulk. And considering he's facing 5-1 odds, is that a mission even this new and improved version of the Green Goliath can prevent?$2.99

World War Hulk: X-Men 2 (of 3; Christos Gage & Andrea Di Vito) An all-out action issue as the Astonishing X-Men battle the Hulk in defence of Professor Xavier's dream! $2.99

Avengers: The Initiative 4 (*Green Zone* 1 of 2; Dan Slott & Stefano Caselli) When the Hulk and his Warbound invade America, the Superhuman Armed Forces answer the call! Our young recruits have seen plenty of action, but will it prepare them for all-out War? $2.99

Ghost Rider 13 (*Apocalypse Soon* 2 of 2; Daniel Way & Javier Solares) Johnny got what he wanted. Temporarily setting aside his quest for the remaining avatars of Lucifer, he has forced the Ghost Rider into a confrontation with The Hulk in hopes of saving the innocent. But who's going to save Ghost Rider? $2.99

Iron Man 20 (Christos Gage & Butch Guice) With Iron Man missing after his battle with the Hulk, S.H.I.E.L.D. is thrown into chaos! $2.99

Irredeemable Ant-Man 10 (Robert Kirkman & Phil Hester) Ant-Man is still on the run, hiding from S.H.I.E.L.D. But now things have changed – the Hulk has come to town. $2.99

Heroes For Hire 12 (Zeb Wells & Fred Van Lente + Clay Mann) When Humbug discovers that insect members of Hulk's Warbound have plans of their own for Earth, the Heroes for Hire infiltrate their great stone starship. $2.99

ONE SHOT **Marvel Spotlight: World War Hulk** (John Rhett Thomas) The Green-skinned Goliath has returned from Planet Hulk and he wants to pay back the do-gooders who ponied up for that supposedly one-way ticket into outer space! 40pg $2.99

NEW **Marvel Adventures Hulk** 1 (Paul Benjamin & David Nakayama) Caught in a blast of gamma radiation, brilliant scientist Bruce Banner now finds himself in times of stress turning into the living engine of destruction know as The Incredible Hulk! $2.99

ONE SHOT **Giant-Size Marvel Adventures The Avengers** 1 (Jeff Parker & Leonard Kirk) Remember your history – The Avengers didn't thaw out Captain America, and Kang the Conqueror became Master of the World throughout all time. 48pg $3.99

Marvel Adventures Iron Man 3 (Fred Van Lente & James Cordeiro) It's covered your car, it's smothered your house ... and now it's crawling through the door after you! It's The Creeping Doom, and the Plantman is using it to end the domination of animals over the Earth. $2.99

Marvel Adventures Spider-Man 29 (Peter David & Pop Mahn) Y'know, some people just don't like museums. They're cold, boring, supervillains are always stealing stuff... .... $2.99

Marvel Adventures Fantastic Four 26 (Fred Van Lente & Cory Hamscher) A massive alien refugee fleet streams through our solar system, and right behind them is the World-Devourer's herald, the Silver Surfer – heading straight for Earth! $2.99

Marvel Zombies/Army of Darkness 5 (of 5; John Layman & Fabiano Silva Neves) Ash is the last man standing, with superpowered zombies around every corner. It may be the end of the road for the intrepid adventurer, unless he dares to awake – the Army of Darkness! $2.99

Ms Marvel 17 (Brian Reed & Aaron Lopresti) MODOK, Wonder Man and Ms Marvel collide. MODOK's big ol' head is about to explode in the middle of Times Square! $2.99

ONE SHOT **Mystic Arcana: Black Knight** (Roy Thomas + David Sexton & Tom Grummett + Eric Nguyen) The fall of Camelot is near and the Old Magics are in danger of fading from existence. 40pg $2.99

ONE SHOT **Official Tarot of Marvel Universe** (David Sexton & Jeff Christiansen) Sorcerer and outsider Ian McNee has been plagued by disturbing dreams and unsettling omens. Something is not right with the world and he needs to know what it is. To gain insights into his growing unease he turns to his most prized mystical possession, The First Tarot! 48pg $3.99

Mighty Avengers 5 (Brian Michael Bendis & Frank Cho) Iron Man has been destroyed, the Sentry's wife is murdered, nuclear missiles are being launched around the world and the one man with the plan to stop the new and improved Ultron...is a God of War who's been an Avenger a total of five minutes. . $2.99

New Avengers 32 (Brian Michael Bendis & Leinil Francis Yu) The New Avengers have found a huge clue to the threat that has faced them since the day they banded together. And now just the knowledge of that threat is tearing them apart. $2.99

New Avengers: Illuminati 4 (of 5; Brian Michael Bendis & Brian Reed + Jim Cheung) They have faced the Skrull empire, the Hulk, the Sentry, the Infinity Gems and the Beyonder... but now the secret society of Marvel is faced with the one thing too much for even them. $2.99

NEW **New Avengers/ Transformers** 1 (of 4; Stuart Moore & Tyler Kirkham) It's time to Assemble – and Roll Out! What in the world could unite Earth's Mightiest Heroes and the Autobots? $2.99

New Warriors 2 (Kevin Grevioux & Paco Medina) Someone is gift-wrapping supervillains for the police, defacing Superhuman Registration posters, and raising eyebrows from City Hall to Tony Stark's war chamber. And the only clue to their identity? Two spray-painted letters: N.W. ... $2.99

Punisher War Journal 9 (Matt Fraction & Ariel Olivetti) G.W. Bridge is on the hunt. Clarke is on the run. Tati's in hell. And the Punisher discovers the horrible secret of Hate Monger's empire buried beneath the desert floor.$2.99

She-Hulk 21 (Dan Slott & Rick Burchett) Ever notice how in some Marvel comics, characters who are supposed to be dead show up with no explanation whatsoever? Or in the wrong costume? Or acting in a way they never have before? Well, there was a reason. $2.99

The Loners 4 (of 6; CB Cebulski & Karl Moline) Can Marvel's former teen heroes stay out of the spandex life? Once she fought aliens and supervillains as the brainy member of Power Pack; now she's trying to become a star in Hollywood – which is the tougher challenge for Lightspeed? $2.99

Silver Surfer: Requiem 3 (of 4; J. Michael Straczynski & Esad Ribic) His time is short and getting shorter. Like a fish swimming upstream, the Silver Surfer is drawn to the familiar waters that birthed him. But the path to Zenn-La is neither clean nor straight. $3.99

Sub-Mariner 2 (of 6; Matt Cherniss & Peter Johnson + Phil Briones) Atlantis has attacked America – but on whose orders? Now, as the leaders of men prepare to launch a war against the undersea kingdom, and Iron Man, Director of SHIELD, struggles to delay the inevitable, Namor wants answers! $2.99

Omega Flight 4 (of 5; Michael Avon Oeming & Scott Kolins) Omega Flight vs the Wrecking Crew! Plus: the True Villains are revealed! $2.99

NEW **Supervillain Team-Up/ MODOK'S 11** 1 (of 5; Fred Van Lente & Francis Portela) While the heroes are away fighting World War Hulk, the villains can play...MODOK, sick of being hunted and hounded by AIM, gathers together an eclectic team of Marvel's Most Wanted to pull off one last, big score. $2.99

ONE SHOT **Thunderbolts: Desperate Measures** (Paul Jenkins & Steve Lieber) *See Close-Up, above.*

NEW **Thor** 1 (J. Michael Straczynski & Olivier Coipel) The Odinson comes roaring to life in this highly anticipated ongoing series by J. Michael Straczynski and Olivier Coipel. $2.99

Uncanny X-Men 488 (Ed Brubaker & Salvador Larroca) The X-Men (re-united with Storm) take to the tunnels to discover why the Morlocks have been erupting with violence. $2.99

X-Factor 21 (Peter David & Pablo Raimondi) In a castle of ice in a far off land, a fearsome being called the Isolationist sits and waits and plans...except he need wait no longer. He is coming to Mutant Town, and is seeking out Jamie Madrox. ... $2.99

New X-Men 40 (Christopher Yost & Craig Kyle + Skottie Young) Things aren't going well for the New X-Men in Limbo. Most are captives of the devilish Belasco who will kill them to get what he wants. But who is this girl who bears a striking resemblance to a certain Russian mutant who died years ago? $2.99

X-Men 201 (Mike Carey & Humberto Ramos) The Marauders' trap closes on the X-Men – from within and from without! But devastating though it is, this attack is only a move in a larger game – and the survivors of Rogue's team have to figure out what the objective is before they can have a prayer of fighting back. $2.99

Astonishing X-Men 22 (Joss Whedon & John Cassaday) The X-Men are on the run on Breakworld. Can they keep the warlords of Breakworld from killing Colossus? $2.99

ONE SHOT **Deadpool/Gli – Summer Fun Spectacular** (Dan Slott & Fabian Nicieza + various) Deadpool and the newly-crowned Great Lakes Initiative face off against hitmen, ninjas, and the Power of the Gods! 48pg $3.99

Cable & Deadpool 43 (Fabian Nicieza & Reilly Brown) With a long memory and a nasty mad-on, Wolverine is looking to stop mounting terrorist acts by Hydra when he encounters a new mastermind behind their latest operations! $2.99

Exiles 96 (Chris Claremont & Clayton Henry) The team may have finally found the perfect world: An Earth with no crime, hate or fear – ruled by one the most diabolical villains of the Marvel universe: Victor Von Doom! ... $2.99

Wolverine 55 (Jeph Loeb & Simone Bianchi) It's time for the final round in Wolverine's decades-long grudge match with Sabretooth, courtesy of Jeph Loeb and Simone Bianchi. $2.99

ONE SHOT **Wolverine: Origins Annual** 1 (Daniel Way & Kaare Andrews) Madripoor. A dirty town custom-made for dirty work. A long time ago, one man ruled this place with an iron fist, a wicked grin…and a patch over one eye. That man is back, and he's looking for answers. 48pg $3.99

X-Men: First Class 2 (Jeff Parker & Roger Cruz) Professor has a long distance mission for extra credit, so the X need to do a good job with this one! And Xavier says he's not going himself and won't be in mental contact... for some reason. $2.99

Punisher 49 (Garth Ennis & Lan Medina; *Max Comics)* SWF seeks SWM to assist in massive bloodletting and carnage. Must be handy w/ guns & munitions. Bottomless reservoir of pain a plus. Mature readers. $2.99

Jack Kirby's Galactic Bounty Hunters 6 (Lisa Kirby & Mike Thibodeaux) Mainframe's quest to recover his son leads to a massive great blow-out battle in Dangerland! 56pg $3.99

ONE SHOT **Powers Encyclopedia** Vol 1 (Tim Daniel + Brian Michael Bendis & Michael Avon Oeming) An in-depth look at the Eisner Award-winning series in this all-new volume! Featuring bios on Christian Walker, Deena Pilgrim, Retro Girl, Captain Cross, Queen Noir, Millenium Guard and many more! 64pg Mature readers. $4.99

NEW **Laurell K. Hamilton's Anita Blake – Vampire Hunter: The First Death** 1 (of 2; Laurell K. Hamilton & Jonathon Green + Wellinton Alves) Part one of a two issue limited series that takes place almost a year before the events currently being chronicled in Guilty Pleasures. You will get to see the first time Anita and Jean-Claude meet, Anita's first time inside Guilty Pleasures, her first serial killer case, and a very early encounter with Edward. 40pg $3.99

Hedge Knight II: Sworn Sword 2 (of 6; George R.R. Martin + Ben Avery & Mike S. Miller) Dunk and Egg serve their new lord, Ser Eustace, in the face of an inevitable war.$2.99

ONE SHOT **Monte Cook's Ptolus: City by the Spire** (Monte Cook & Canaan White + Luis Lira) *See Close Up on facing page.*

Magician Apprentice 9 (of 12; Raymond E. Feist + Bryan J.L. Glass & Ryan Stegman) As Tomas fights for his life alone in the ancient Dwarven mines, the magician's apprentice, Pug, finds himself and Duke Boric's traveling party shipwrecked upon the shore of the mysterious Sorcerer's Isle.$2.99

Red Prophet: The Tales of Alvin Maker 9 (of 12; Orson Scott Card + Roland Bernard Brown & Rodney Buchemi) After leaving Detroit, Alvin Junior and Ta-Kumsaw journey to the Land of the Flints where young Alvin is reunited with Taleswapper. $2.99

Wyrms 6 (of 6; Orson Scott Card + Jake Black & Vitor Ishimura) Patience's journey has reached its astounding climax in Cranning! It is the final endgame as she not only confronts the mysterious Unwyrm, but also her destiny. Patience will discover the fate of her entire race and her role in it! $2.99

Marvel Masterworks: The Mighty Thor Vol 6 (Stan Lee & Jack

CLOSE-UP

Thunderbolts: Desperate Measures

Norman Osborn has his own agenda when it comes to directing the Thunderbolts. But will he go too far when he sends Penance on what could be a suicide mission against the brutal, rogue law-enforcer, Americop? It's Thunderbolt against Thunderbolt in a battle of fists and wills in this special issue by the masterminds behind Civil War: Front Line.

Paul Jenkins & Steve Lieber | Marvel Comics | $2.99

Kirby; hb) After years of honing the tragedy and intrigue of the Son of Odin, Stan and Jack hit a stride that would produce the most mythic tales in all of Marveldom. Collecting Thor (Vol 1) 141-151. 256pg $54.99

ONE SHOT **Devil Dinosaur (Jack Kirby Omnibus** (Jack Kirby; hb) Collects the King's saga of Devil Dinosaur in his prehistoric prime! Collecting Devil Dinosaur 1-9. 176pg $29.99

ONE SHOT **Immortal Iron Fist** Vol 1 *(The Last Iron Fist Story;* various; hb) Many years ago, in the mystical city of Kun' Lun, young Danny Rand stared at a suit behind glass – the garb of the Immortal Iron Fist – and knew that he was destined to wear it. But where did this costume come from? 152pg $19.99

Nextwave: Agents of H.A.T.E. Vol 2 *(I Kick Your Face;* Warren Ellis & Stuart Immonen) The Nextwave Squad faces an army of Mindless Ones! Yes, insanely powerful stone men without faces! 144pg $19.99

ONE SHOT **The Hood Premiere** (Brian K. Vaughn & Kyle Hotz; hb) *See Close-Up, below.*

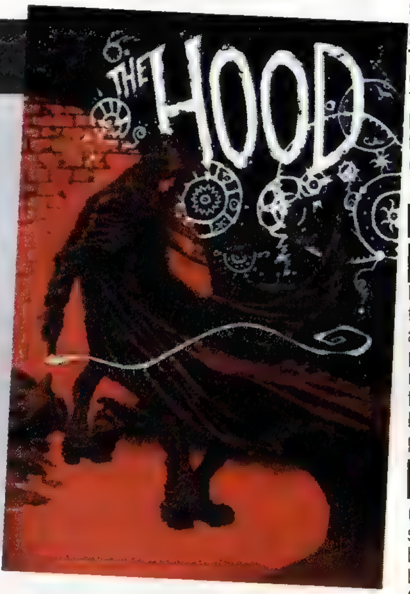
ONE SHOT **X-Men: Phoenix – Warsong Premiere** (Greg Pak & Tyler Kirkham; hb) The Phoenix is back! But where has it been reborn? Fire and pain await the X-Men. Collecting X-Men: Phoenix – Warsong 1-5. 128pg $19.99

CLOSE-UP

The Hood Premiere

Nineteen-year-old Parker Robbins couldn't afford college, but he was able to buy a ski mask and a Lorcin .380 handgun. After dropping out of high school, he hoped to follow in the footsteps of his late father, a soldier in the Kingpin's vast criminal empire – but life in the mob isn't always as glorious as the movies make it seem. Parker can barely make ends meet. Collecting The Hood #1-6.

Brian K. Vaughn & Kyle Hotz | Marvel Comics | 144pg | $19.99



Ultimate X-Men Vol 7 (various) Collects Ultimate X-Men Vol 14: Phoenix and Ultimate X-Men Vol 15: Magical, plus extras. 256pg $29.99

ONE SHOT **Uncanny X-Men: Rise & Fall of the Shi'ar Empire** (Ed Brubaker & Billy Tan + Clayton Henry; hb) Young Guns Reloaded artist Billy Tan and Clayton Henry join Ed Brubaker for a story that won't just affect Earth, but will rock the foundations of the entire galaxy! 272pg $34.99

ONE SHOT **Squadron Supreme: Hyperion vs Nighthawk** (Marc Guggenheim & Paul Gulacy; tpb) What could draw these two heroes into the biggest of all smackdowns? Nothing less than genocide. Collecting Squadron Supreme: Hyperion vs Nighthawk 1-4. 96pg $10.99

Exiles Vol 15 *(Enemy of the Stars;* Chris Claremont & Paul Pelletier) Chris Claremont starts a run that will have Exiles fans talking for years to come. And he's not the only one joining up, as X-Woman Psylocke joins the team, as well. Collecting Exiles 90-94. 120pg $13.99

ONE SHOT **Wonder Man: My Fair Super Hero** (Peter David & Andrew Currie; tpb) Meet Lady Killer – the dangerous assassin who comes head-to-head with the Avenger called Wonder Man! 120pg $13.99

X-Factor Vol 2 *(Life And Death Matters;* Peter David & various) Jamie Madrox comes face-to-face with the thing that terrifies him the most: having to make a decision. Collecting X-Factor 7-12. 136pg $14.99

Moon Knight Vol 1 *(The Bottom;* Charlie Huston & David Finch) The Fist of Khonshu is back and badder than ever. Collecting Moon Knight 1-6. 152pg Mature readers. $14.99

ONE SHOT **Union Jack: London Falling** (Christos Gage & Mike Perkins) Britain's premier superhero has mere hours to prevent multiple terrorist attacks on London by an army of supervillains! Collecting Union Jack 1-4. 96pg $10.99

NEW **Invaders Classic** Vol 1 (various) The Big Three of Marvel's Golden Age – Captain America, the Human Torch and the Sub-Mariner – entered their first alliance when the US entered World War II! But the Axis had more than bombs to throw at them, as they soon learned in a battle with the Star-Gods! 240pg $24.99

Hulk Visionaries: Peter David Vol 4 (various) The golden god-man Glorian wants to give the grey Hulk an emotional makeover, but the mysterious Mister Cloot thinks they'd both look better in demon red! $19.99

Essential Defenders Vol 3 (various) There's nothing the non-team can't handle when mutants, gods, demons and miscreants of the 1950s all get their crack at the sensational superheroes of the seventies! 592pg $16.99

Essential Spider-Woman Vol 2 (various) The first part of Spider-Woman's career concludes as her collection of challenges and crises is completed! Some of Marvel's most stupendous scribes set the heroine against Morgan le Fay, the Viper, Gypsy Moth and other fearsome foes, forgotten or otherwise! 608pg $16.99

Avatar Press

ONE SHOT **2001 Maniacs Special** 1 (Tim Sullivan & Raulo Caceres) Tim Sullivan tells, for the first time, the origin of the 2001 Maniacs, and introduces two new characters that will be featured in the second film, coming out this autumn. $3.99

ONE SHOT **Alan Moore's Hypothetical Lizard** (Alan Moore & Sebastian Fiumara) *See Close-Up on facing page.*

NEW **Doktor Sleepless** 1 (Warren Ellis & Ivan Rodriguez) Warren Ellis is unleashed on this all-new, on-going sci-fi series! It's the near future. No-one has their flying car. Everyone feels cheated. What America needs now is a Mad Scientist. $3.99

Plague of the Living Dead 4 (of 6; John Russo & Dheeraj Verma) With nothing left for which to live and no hope for survival, a trio of Vietnam veterans plunge headlong into battle with the army of the undead that have destroyed everything to which they had hoped to return. 16pg $2.50

Warren Ellis' Blackgas 2 #3 (of 3; Warren Ellis & Ryan Waterhouse) Everything has gone totally belly-to-the-sky for Soo Park and her team of survivors while trying to find their way out of a city of cannibal zombies. $3.99

Boom!

2 Guns #5 (of 5; Steven Grant & Mateus Santolouco) Trench and Steadman, unlikely allies, take on the mob and the CIA. With everyone crossing everyone else, can they survive this massive double-cross, clear their names, and come out alive? 24pg $3.99

Cover Girl 5 (of 5; Andrew Cosby & Kevin Church + R.M Yankovicz) Everyone's favourite action hero and his cover girl reach their conclusion – this unlikely duo forges an alliance – or a romance? – and face off against the forces that are looking to lay them down. 24pg $3.99

Dominion 5 (of 5; Michael Alan Nelson & Tim Hamilton) Dick has fallen to the virus. Chicago lies in wreckage and flames. Has this alien Dominion succeeded in conquering the Earth? 24pg $3.99

ONE SHOT **Fall of Cthulhu** Vol 1 *(The Fugue;* Michael Alan Nelson & Jean Jacques Dzialowski) Cy is an ordinary guy, engaged to a beautiful fiancee, when his uncle's suicide changes his life forever. Consumed with discovering the motive behind his relative's sudden and painful death, he finds notes and scribblings about a nonsense word he doesn't recognise. 128pg . $14.99

Fall of Cthulhu 6 (Michael Alan Nelson & Jean-Jacques Dzialowski) Connor travels to the edge of the world to retrieve a lost artefact for... Mister Arkham? 24pg $3.99

NEW **Jenny Finn: Doom Messiah** 1 (of 4; Mike Mignola & Troy Nixey) A Lovecraftian descent into dread and fear, Jenny Finn spotlights a mysterious little girl that arrives in Victorian England with carnage in her wake. Only a ranting madman, Hornby, seems to know what she's up to. $2.99

Left On Mission 4 (of 5; Chip Mosher & Francesco Francavilla) Westfall reaches Morocco as he searches for Emma. Painter is there, hindering his every move. While Emma prepares to finally sell her information, Westfall desperately tries to stop her – and save her soul. 24pg $3.99

Salvador 3 (various) Salvador's this world's salvation – but can he survive the rigors of the future, when his mortal frame is so fragile? 24pg $3.99

Station 2 (of 5; Johanna Stokes & Leno Jefferson) A crew member has died. And now the crew knows it isn't sabotage. Questions follow, as suspicions build. Paranoia runs deep. 24pg $3.99

Tag: Cursed 5 (of 5; Mike Leib & Chee) Finally – answers for what the Tag curse truly is. And an ending for Ed. Keith Giffen's dark horror franchise reaches its terrible conclusion... 24pg $3.99

Desperado

ONE SHOT **The Art of P. Craig Russell** (P. Craig Russell) This book offers readers and fans a chance to witness his immense and phenomenal career from start to present, offering glimpses of previously never-before-seen material from his files and sketchbooks, as well as beautifully reproduced images of his personal favourites. 256pg $49.99

NEW **Cherubs: Paradise Lost** 1 (of 4; Bryan Talbot & Mark Stafford) A supernatural comedy adventure. The bland serenity of Heaven is shattered by the assassination of the Grand Council by the Archangel Abaddon. He's decided it's better to rule in Hell than serve in Heaven and has made a pact with Lucifer to take his place. b&w $3.99

ONE SHOT **Cruel And Unusual** (Jamie Delano + Tom Peyer & John McCrea) What can America do with 2.2 million prison inmates? What it does best: Turn a profit. Make celebrities. Execute them live on TV. Sell advertising. And praise the Lord. 112pg b&w $15.99

NEW **Deadworld: Frozen Over** 1 (of 4; Mike Raicht & Federico Dallacchio) New York City. Those few lucky enough to survive the initial wave of undead lie huddled together in power deprived buildings high above the streets. Kolin Fleet and his small band of survivors seek to get out of the city before the snow thaws and the Zombies are roaming free once again. b&w$3.99

Negative Burn 12 (various) Celebrating its second year of publication, the Eagle, Eisner, and Harvey Award nominated anthology returns this month with yet another issue packed with today's top creators and tomorrow's brightest talents. b&w 64pg $5.99

NEW **Sabre** 1 (of 5; Don McGregor & Mike Peters) In a future society that condemns rebels with wholesale slaughter, Sabre and his future love, Melissa Siren, the first woman born from a test tube fetus, defy society and their masters, daring to fight for the right to be together! 48pg b&w $4.99

Devil's Due

Chucky 4 (of 5; Brian Pulido & Josh Medors) Jade learns first hand what it means to have Chucky's attention directed at you. $3.50

ONE SHOT **Demonwars** Vol I *(The Demon Awakens;* R.A. Salvatore + Andrew Dabb & Tim Seeley) A terrible evil is rising in the world of Corona, and it's up to a trio of unlikely heroes to stem the tide! 160pg $18.99

Dragonlance Chronicles Vol 3 *(Dragons of Spring Dawning;* 5 of 12; Margaret Weis & Tracy Hickman) Once, he would have been an unwavering ally. Once, he walked among the bravest of the brave – the Knights of Solamnia. But that was long ago. Now, Lord Soth has become the Companions' most implacable foe – one that may herald the doom of all Krynn! $3.50

G.I. Joe: Storm Shadow 3 (Larry Hama & Mark Robinson) Storm Shadow has many people after him and the family secrets he holds – both new and familiar faces – all of whom want him dead! $3.50

G.I. Joe: America's Elite 25 (Mark Powers & Mike Bear) The G.I. Joe team takes the fight to Cobra in a whole new way! Fan-favorite team members return to the active roster!

Hack/Slash 3 (Tim Seeley & Emily Stone + Courtney Via) Cassie is trapped in Hell with a fat musician in gold lame, trying to avoid getting knocked up by demons. $3.50

ONE SHOT **Lloyd Kaufman Presents: The Toxic Avenger and other Tromatic Tales** (Lloyd Kaufman & various; gn) A host of stories inspired by films including Redneck Zombies, Toxic Crusaders and Cannibal the Musical! 144pg $18.99

The Nye Incidents 3 (of 5; Craig Spector & Aadi Salman) Lynn Devlin's quest takes her to an alien abduction convention... what she finds there raises more questions and makes her nightmares rage even more out of control... b&w $3.50

Sheena 2 (of 5; Robert Rodi & Matt Merhoff) What is it about the snarling, ferocious, wild girl that's being held captive in Val Verde's hospital that attracts the attention of a huge corporation like Cardwell Industries? $3.50

Xombie 4 (of 6; James Farr & Nate Lovett) Dirge and Zoe are on a time-sensitive mission to save the last remnants of humanity, but are being massively slowed down by brutal attacks from every side! $3.50

Dynamite

NEW **Army of Darkness: From the Ashes** 1 (James Kuhoric & Fernando Blanco + Ivan Nunes) Evil Ash and his Deadite hordes rule the land and everywhere Ash turns is filled with mutants and monsters! Can Ash J.

Williams gather his chosen and take down the Deadite hordes and restore order to the world? $3.50

The Boys 9 (Garth Ennis & Darick Robertson + Tony Avina) The game is a foot as Hughie and Butcher's murder investigation runs deeper into the Tek-Knight's background. $2.99

Dark Xena 4 (John Layman & Noah Salonga + Chris Garcia) Dark Xena finds Gabrielle making a request of the Gods and learning that you must be very, very careful, what you wish for, and how you wish for it! $3.50

ONE SHOT **Eva: Daughter of the Dragon** (various) This story shifts from the past to the present and features not only Eva, but a classic line-up of horrific characters including Dracula, Frankenstein's monster and more! $4.99

Highlander 11 (Brandon Jerwa & Fabio Laguna) Duncan has been captured and taken to an Immortal fight club where he faces a rogue Watcher and the mysterious group know only as the Eye! $2.99

NEW **Jungle Girl** 1 (various) Jana the Jungle Girl races to save a group of intruders into this strange land – a land filled with dinosaurs, prehistoric men and much, much more! $2.99

New Battlestar Galactica: Season Zero 2 (Brandon Jerwa & Jackson Herbert + inLight Studio) In these early days of the Galactica under Adama's command, a mystery is unfolding across the Galaxy that has deadly implications for the human race! $2.99

The Lone Ranger 9 (Brett Matthews & Sergio Cariello + Sergio Cariello) It's frontier justice versus legal justice as the Ranger and Tonto find themselves at odds as they transport a man accused of murder through lands owned by the relatives of the man he killed. $2.99

Painkiller Jane 3 (Jimmy Palmiotti & Lee Moder + Chris Garcia) The opening arc comes to a stunning, fiery, explosive and downright messy conclusion as they close the case on *The Infidel*. $3.50

Red Sonja 26 (Michael Avon Oeming + Brian Reed & HOMS + Vinnicius) Sonja has returned to the lands of Hyboria and desperately attempts to assemble an army to battle Kulan Gath and his growing legions. But, will the people follow Sonja or lead her right into Gath's trap to save their own desperate lives! $2.99

Terminator 2: Infinity 3 (Simon Furman & Nigel Raynor) John and the survivors of the nuclear winter move out of Los Angeles, heading east and preparing to broadcast to the world at large. $3.50

Fantagraphics

Angry Youth Comix Vol II 13 (Johnny Ryan) All of protagonist Loady McGee's worst (and most amusing) traits are brought to the fore as his obsessive quest reaches a fever pitch. 24pg b&w $3.50

The Comics Journal 285 (various) Superman Confidential creator Darwyn Cooke confides in us about his early career in animation, collaborating on Catwoman, re-pioneering DC's superhero mythology in The New Frontier, and providing his current takes on Batman, The Spirit and Superman. 200pg $9.95

ONE SHOT **The Girl From Hoppers** (Jaime Hernandez) The 25th anniversary Love and Rockets celebration continues with this, the second of three volumes collecting the adventures of the spunky Maggie, her annoying best friend and sometime lover Hopey, and their circle of friends. 272pg b&w $14.95

ONE SHOT **Human Diastrophism** (Gilbert Hernandez) Collects the second half of Gilbert Hernandez's acclaimed magical-realist tales of Palomar, the small Central American town. 288pg b&w $14.95

ONE SHOT **I Killed Adolf Hitler** (Jason) A strange, violent world in which contract killers can be hired to rub out pests, be they dysfunctional relatives, abusive co-workers, loud neighbours, or just annoyances in general – and as you might imagine, their services are in heavy demand. 48pg $12.95

NEW **Grotesque** 1 (Sergio Ponchione) What if our memories – all that we've seen, all that we've experienced, but also all that we've read or imagined – took on their own reality? .. $7.95pg

ONE SHOT **Laura Warholic or The Sexual Intellectual** (Alexander Theroux; hb) Nostalgic for the old days and old manners, a way of life lost to grace, loving from afar a mysterious beauty named Rapunzel Wisht, Eugene Eyestones, an erudite sex columnist for a Boston cultural magazine, fights against the rising tide of stupidity. 600pg $29.95

Love and Rockets Vol II 20 (Los Bros Hernandez) La Maggie La Loca – The Director's Cut! With the cuss words put back in and four added pages! Plus, 17-year-old Venus helps us say goodbye to the post-Palomar stories in L&R! 48pg $6.95

Niger 2 (Leila Marzocchi) Seasons change and many things occur in the second issue of Leila Marzocchi's wildly original, beautifully drawn, ecologically minded fable. b&w $7.95

Reflections 3 (of 3; Marco Corona) The third and final instalment of Marco Corona's haunting mini-series returns to the settings of the first – a seaside town, a castle, an old lady's apartment. $7.95

IDW

30 Days of Night: Eben And Stella 3 (Steve Niles + Kelly Sue DeConnick & Justin Randall) In this third chapter in the latest saga of Eben and Stella, war parties converge. Vampire-hunters Kevin and Alice each bring their talents to bear on the battlefield – Alice provides generations of combat expertise and weaponry, Kevin chips in technical expertise and new media prowess. $3.99

ONE SHOT **30 Days of Night: Spreading The Disease** (Dan Wickline & Alex Sanchez + Tony Sandoval; tpb) Agent Michael Henson has all the evidence he needs to prove to the world that vampires exist... until the government takes it all away. 128pg $19.99

NEW **The Complete Terry and the Pirates** Vol 1 (*1934-1936*; Milton Caniff) Celebrating the centennial of cartoonist Milton Caniff's birth, IDW Publishing will publish a six-book series, collecting the entirety of Caniff's groundbreaking newspaper adventure strip, Terry and the Pirates. 368pg $49.99

Fallen Angel 18 (Peter David & J.K. Woodward) Hidden away in an ancient land, there is a city of ghosts with a demented leader who desires to spread his city's influence across the globe. $3.99

ONE SHOT **Gene Simmons House of Horrors** 1 (various) Kicks off an all-new line of comics created by the rock legend. Up first, this quarterly anthology of tales of terror, all presided over by the man in black, Gene Simmons, who also scripts all his own dialogue for the comic. 64pg$9.99

The Legend of Grimjack Vol 8 (John Ostrander & Tom Mandrake + Timothy Truman) Continues the re-presentation of the First Comics GrimJack saga. 200pg $24.99

Metal Gear Solid: Sons of Liberty 10 (Alex Garner + Rufus Dayglo & Ashley Wood) Lies, half-truths, betrayals, and bodies all begin to pile up inside the giant killing machine known as Arsenal Gear. $3.99

Star Trek: Klingons: Blood Will Tell 4 (various) Another look at the struggle between the Federation and the Klingon Empire, from the perspective of the galaxy's fiercest warriors, the Klingons! $3.99

Spike: Shadow Puppets 2 (Brian Lynch & Franco Urru + David Messina) The evil puppets of Smile Time are back and taking over Japan and Spike is going to bring them down. $3.99

NEW **Scarface: Devil In Disguise** 1 (Joshua Jabcuga & Alberto Dose) Before Tony Montana came to America, he cut his teeth as a young military assassin in Cuba, and rose up as a hustler in Havana... .... $3.99

ONE SHOT **Scarface: The Movie Scriptbook** (Oliver Stone) Relive the epic '80s movie staple of greed, success and excess! IDW presents this special printing of Oliver Stone's notorious screenplay, telling the story of Tony Montana and his grab for ultimate power in cocaine-obsessed Miami. 240pg b&w $19.99

ONE SHOT **Scarface: Scarred For Life** (John Layman & Dave Crosland) This blood-soaked tale picks up where the movie left off, as Tony survives – just barely – and has to claw and kill his way back to the top of the sun-drenched Florida underworld. 128pg $19.99

NEW **Star Trek: Year Four** 1 (David Tischman & Kelsey Shannon + Joe Corroney) The launch of Year Four in the Original Series' five-year mission. Kirk and the crew discover the Strand, the multi-planet construct of a dead civilisation, run by a brilliant genetic scientist who's obsessed with repopulating it. 24pg $2.99

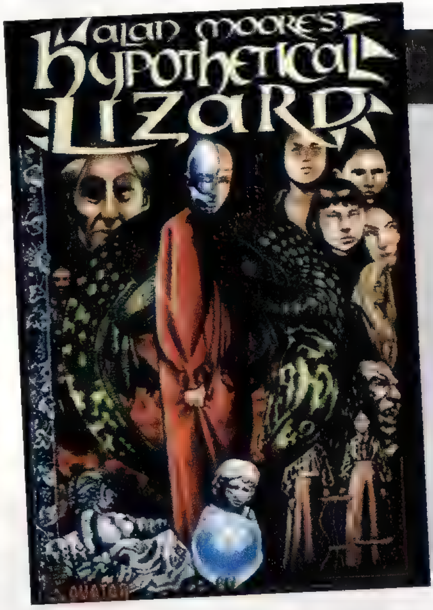
ONE SHOT **Super Bad James Dynomite** (various) Take a trip into the imagination of Marlon Wayans – the comedic giant behind White Chicks, the Scary Movie franchise and more – with Super Bad Jame Dynomite! 136pg $19.99

The Transformers: Megatron Origin 2 (Eric Holmes & Alex Milne + Marcelo Matero) As a destitute fugitive with nothing to live for, Megatron digs deep inside himself to discover a hidden talent for brutal violence. $3.99

ONE SHOT **America Jr** Vol 1 (Nick Capetanakis + Todd Livingston & Brendon + Brian Fraim; tpb) When a tiny US town becomes an independent country, its clueless citizens decide to model their new nation after America – with hilarious results! 96pg b&w $9.99

The Amory Wars 2 (of 5; Claudio Sanchez & Gus Vazquez) Coheed and Cambria learn the truth about their children – and discover dangerous secrets about their past – as the Prise make an unexpected journey to visit Mariah Antillarea. $2.99

The Astounding Wolf-Man 2 (Robert Kirkman & Jason Howard) Gary Hampton puts his powers to the test. Wolf-Man finally takes to the streets – saving lives and doing good. $2.99



CLOSE-UP

Alan Moore's Hypothetical Lizard

What would you pay to learn the innermost secrets of wizards? Young prostitute Som Som has made the ultimate sacrifice; literally sworn to secrecy by cosmetic surgery, the two halves of her brain have been severed, leaving her able to hear and see... but not speak or act.

Alan Moore & Sebastian Fiumara | Avatar Press | 128pg | $14.99

ONE SHOT **The Transformers Spotlight: Galvatron** (Simon Furman & Guido Guidi + Alex Milne) The spotlight falls on Galvatron, the most enigmatic (and deadly!) Decepticon of all! $3.99

ONE SHOT **War of the Undead** (Bryan Johnson & Walter Flanagan + Phil Sloan) In East Germany in 1945, Hitler has committed suicide and the war is over, but a secret cabal of Nazis have an insane plan to resurrect Hitler's soul from Hell and place it in an earthly vessel. 80pg $12.99

ONE SHOT **Zombies vs Robots** (Chris Ryall & Ashley Wood) Rotting, undead zombies get paired with personality-deficient and coldly metallic robots. Who could possibly win in such a battle? 64pg $19.99

Image Comics

Age of Bronze Vol 3 (*Betrayal;* Eric Shanower) High King Agamemnon lusts to conquer the wealthy city of Troy. He leads his army across the sea, fighting all the way. On the island of Tenedos, just off the coast of Troy, Achilles leads the attack. Spears fly and men die. When the dust settles, Achilles finds himself one step closer to his tragic fate. 176pg b&w $17.99

Alien Pig Farm 4 (of 4; Todd Farmer & Don Marquez) Only one thing worse than not being able to make out with yer sister... and that's not being able to make out with your sister because the green-skinned alien sumbitch you been fightin' with done went and carried her back to his buried spaceship to make green-skinned babies with'er! Mature readers. $2.99

ONE SHOT **The Bakers: Babies and Kittens** (Kyle Baker) After a humiliating defeat at the hands of a mouse, Dad is covered in glue traps. Mom & the kids adopt a cat against Dad's wishes and hide it from him. Dad doesn't catch on for days. 96pg $18.99

ONE SHOT **Black Cherry** (Doug Tennapel; gn) Down-on-his-luck Mafioso, Eddie Paretti is so desperate for cash he's agreed to steal a dead body from his own mob boss! Things only get worse when he discovers the body isn't human! 192pg b&w $17.99

Bomb Queen Vol 2 (*Queen of Hearts;* Jimmie Robinson) Bomb Queen's dictatorship over New Port city is threatened when she falls in love with the wrong man. Can our favourite villain get her head out of the clouds and her legs back together before she loses everything? 128pg $14.99

NEW **Capes** Vol 1 (*Punching The Clock;* Robert Kirkman & Mark Englert) Capes Inc. is a business that employs super-powered individuals to protect the city of New York and occasionally, the world. Collects Capes 1-3. 144pg $14.99

ONE SHOT **The Chemist** (Jay Boose) Vance Larroche is not your typical drug dealer. He's a manufacturer – a chemist, to be exact. He doesn't waste time making street drugs like Heroin. He's looking to the future. $3.50

ONE SHOT **The Collected Normalman** (Jim Valentino) Now, it says here, 'normalman' must not be capitalised. Well let me tell you, we at CI are raging against the 21st century tired old punk attitude to letter casing. We are not a billboard. We suggest you buy this title to see what all the lower-case fuss is about. $19.99

ONE SHOT **The Creature From The Depths** (Mark Kidwell & Kidwell + Jay Fotos) Treachery and red death beneath the waves. A self-contained one-shot, this volume sports 36 pages of full colour story and art . 40pg $3.99

ONE SHOT **The Darkness** Vol 1 (Kerri Hawkins) In this inaugural foray into the world of written fiction, readers will get a taste of Jackie's life within the mob and delve deeper than ever before into the horror and thrill of being the bearer of The Darkness. 150pg $6.99

NEW **Dust** 1 (of 2; various) Jump into battle as the Allies and the Sino-Soviet Union join forces to fight the evil Axis; a powerful group (Germany, Japan and Africa) whose plans to dominate the world are bolstered by their amazing weapons – built using alien technology taken from a crashed space ship. $3.99

Dynamo 5 5 (Jay Faerber & Mahmud A. Asrar + Ron Riley) Chrysalis, the armoured femme fatale, is one of Captain Dynamo's oldest enemies. But was there another facet to their relationship? $3.50

Elephantmen 11 (Richard Starkings & Moritat) Nikken: Creator of the Elephantmen, Scientist, Geneticist. Imprisoned for crimes against humanity. Serengheti: African Businessman, a man who hates the Elephantmen. These are two men driven by hungers and desires that would chill the souls of ordinary mortals, yet still pawns in a bigger game played by men of much darker visions. . $2.99

CLOSE-UP

Meltdown: The Definitive Collection

The Flare is dying. His own superpowers are eating him alive, melting him down from within. During his final days, The Flare must struggle with his volatile life and the questionable decisions he's made along the way, hoping to find redemption before time runs out.

David Schwartz & Sean Wang |
Image Comics | 160pg | $15.99

ONE SHOT **Endgame** Vol 1 (John Ney Reiber + David Wohl & Michael Turner + Francis Manapul) Sara Pezzini, the New York City detective and bearer of the mystical Witchblade, investigates a series of mysterious deaths which lead her to encounter a force called The Weave. 160pg $16.99

Fell 9 (Warren Ellis & Ben Templesmith) There are reasons why hostage negotiators get special training. They need to create calm, bond with their targets, and appear credibly understanding and empathetic. In the crumbling city of Snowtown, the closest thing they have to a hostage negotiator is detective Richard Fell, who has a dozen psychology books and a history of shooting people who annoy him. 24pg $1.99

Frank Frazetta's Death Dealer 4 (of 6; Joshua Ortega & Nat Jones + Jay Fotos) Adelia Atar and Lambeau catch up with the Death Dealer at Cascada Pass, and learn the shocking secret of his origin! $3.99

ONE SHOT **Full Color** (Mark Haven Britt) A lifetime marked with Napoleonic bosses has gene rage in Boom that she can't contain anymore – only aim. Her target? Her boss. That same day, Boom comes home to find an old friend standing on her fire escape. David's double-crossed a drug dealer and he's looking for help. 176pg b&w $15.99

ONE SHOT **Girls & Goddesses: The Pin-Up Art of Joseph Michael Linsner** (Joseph Michael Linsner) Features Dawn, Dark Ivory and many other gorgeous Linsner pin-up girls collected together for the first time! 112pg $29.99

ONE SHOT **Gødland Celestial Edition** (various) See how the greatest cosmic superhero epic of the new century began! See Commander Adam Archer, Maxim, Basil Cronus, Nickelhead, IBOGA and more in all their oversized glory! 360pg $34.99

Gutsville 3 (of 6; Simon Spurrier & Frazer Irving) Meet the NoSunMan: serial killer, psychedelic horror-merchant and all-out freak. Albert and Mary must confront this faceless terror if they're to stand any chance of reaching their prize; but what dark secrets will they find in the mangled debris, swallowed by the World-Fish..? $2.99

NEW **Hiding in Time** 1 (of 4; Christopher E. Long & Ryan Winn) In the near future, the Witness Protection Programme will relocate people throughout time to ensure their safety. But when hired assassins begin finding and killing them, Nathan Crew – a simple technician in the now-defunct Time Portal Division of the WPP – is forced to travel back in time to try and stop the atrocities! $3.50

Invincible 45 (Robert Kirkman & Ryan Ottley + Bill Crabtree) In deep space, surrounded by Viltrumites, all alone. Allen the Alien faces his fiercest fight yet. Meanwhile, back on Earth, Invincible and Atom Eve finally decide to talk. $2.99

ONE SHOT **Jack Kirby's Silver Star** (Jack Kirby) Chronicling the rise of Homo-Geneticus, a genetically altered Breed of humanity, designed to survive an impending apocalypse, which spawns both the heroic Silver Star and the sadistic Darius Drumm! 144pg $34.99

ONE SHOT **Meltdown: The Definitive Collection** (David Schwartz & Sean Wang) *See Close-Up, below.*

Madman Atomic Comics 4 (Michael Allred & Michael Allred + Laura Allred) Has Frank Einstein found his way out of his multi-dimensional funk? Can he hope to find his way back to the original reality? $2.99

Paul Jenkins' Sidekick: Super Summer Sidekick Spectacular 2 (of 2; Paul Jenkins & Chris Moreno) Eddie Edison is the Susan Lucci of superhero tryouts – every year, he makes a bid for full membership of the Council of American Super Heroes (a non-profit organization, all checks payable to C.A.S.H.) – every year, he sets new records for futility. Will this be his year? $3.50

PvP 36 (Scott Kurtz) Shiny! The PvP gang hit a science fiction convention. Plot a course for hilarity, warp-factor NERD! 24pg b&w $3.50

Repo 2 (of 5; Rick Spears & Rob G) Our boys, Emil and KD, are hot on the case of the escaped clone, but so is crazy-ass Lola and her crew. The two teams race for leads through the sprawl in an insane gun-blasting, car-thrashing hover chase into the murky depths of the dangerous lower city. $3.50

The Ride: Die Valkyrie! 2 (of 3; Doug Wagner & Brian Stelfreeze) The joyride that started last issue is turning into a bloodbath. Note to reader: never steal a car with a trunk full of the mob's guns. $2.99

ONE SHOT **Scrap Mettle** (Scott Morse) Award-winning storyteller Scott Morse's Scrap Mettle is the culmination of every spare moment spent away from the creation of his graphic novels and his duties at Pixar. 400pg $39.99

Strange Embrace 3 (David Hine) Alex pushes his way into the memories, dreams and nightmares of Anthony Corbeau, in an attempt to discover what it is that Corbeau is trying to hide from him. $2.99

Spawn 172 (David Hine & Brian Haberlin) What made Al Simmons the person who grew up to be Spawn? Al struggles to recover his memories of an encounter with a sinister stranger. $2.95

Spawn: Godslayer 3 (Brian Holguin & Philip Tan) The saga of the Winter King continues... The Godslayer has travelled across the world to reach the hall of Urshrek, a cannibalistic deity who feeds on the souls of children. Now he comes face to face at last with the brutal tyrant God and his horde of shadow warriors. Let the battle begin! $2.99

Ward of the State 3 (of 3; Christopher E. Long & Chee) This hardboiled miniseries comes to an emotional close as Norma Balitzer must face the sins of her past! $3.50

The Walking Dead 41 (Robert Kirkman & Charlie Adlard + Cliff Rathburn) Death surrounds them. b&w $2.99

NEW **First Born** 1 (of 3; Ron Marz & Stjepan Sejic) Sara Pezzini, on leave from the NYPD, awaits the arrival of her child. But unknown to her, epic events are unfolding. Agents of the Angelus are seeking a new host, but first they want mob boss Jackie Estacado out of the way ... permanently. $3.99

Witchblade 110 (Ron Marz & Matt Haley) Rookie Witchblade bearer Dani Baptiste is unprepared as the servants of the Angelus are closing in on her. But there's no reason not to trust the good guys, right? $2.99

Witchblade Takeru Manga 6 (Yasuko Kobayashi & Kazasa Sumita + Blond) The battle between the demon Kira and Takeru rages on in this issue! With Kuo trapped by Kira, Takeru is distracted. Will Takeru be able to turn the tide of the fight to ensure her and Kuo's survival? $3.99

Markosia

Breathe 4 (of 4; John Sheridan & Kit Wallis) Mi Ling knows the truth and goes to look for her dearest friend… But Zhen has ulteerior motives… and due to the fear of his enraged father goes on the prowl to stop a secret that has been protected by the villagers for almost 13 years. 28pg $2.99

ONE SHOT **Project Eon** (Brett Thompson + Freddie Williams II & Shawn McGuan) At birth Cameron Williams was volunteered by his parents in a genetic resequencing experiment to correct his birth defects. Nineteen years later, the creators of the technology that gave Cameron a new lease on life (as well as his super human abilities) want him back...dead or alive. 100pg $14.95

ONE SHOT **Scatterbrain** (Brendan Deneen & Szymon Kudranski) Jack Anderfold is a disgraced cop who's desperate to regain the glory years that have passed him by. He blames the mysterious Scatterbrain, who has recently appeared, for all of his problems but deep down he knows it's his own damn fault. 100pg $14.95

Starship Troopers 4 (of 4; Tony Lee & Chris Dibari) It's the final chapter as Tanner's Tigers fight for their lives with the Captain and the Bugs on either side! 28pg $3.50

Vengeance of the Vapor 2 (of 4; Sal Cipriano & Jok) The Heavy Gang has overrun the town of Tin Cup, but opposing the maniacal bandits at every turn is the mysterious avenger, The Vapor! 28pg $3.50

Moonstone

The Phantom 18 *(Invisible Children* 2 of 3; Mike Bullock & Silvestre Szilagyi + Silvestre Szilagyi) Torn from today's headlines, The Phantom continues his one-man war against the evil warlord known only as HIM. $3.50

NBM

Dungeon Parade Vol 2 *(Day of the Toads;* various) The Dungeon is attacked by a swarm of flying venomous toads so large it almost succumbs as the perpetrators look to get free rein inside! 64pg $9.95

Oni Press

NEW **The Apocalipstix** Vol 1 (Ray Fawkes & Cameron Stewart) Mandy, Megumi and Dot were on track to be one of the greatest rock bands in the history of mankind and then… Armageddon happened. $11.95

ONE SHOT **Courtney Crumrin & The Fire-Thief's Tale** (Ted Naifeh) Uncle Aloysius takes Courtney to Romania, where she encounters a tribe of nomadic gypsies with a dark secret. 56pg b&w $5.99

Maintenance 6 (Jim Massey & Robbi Rodriguez) At Terromax it isn't all-work all of the time; sometimes there's cake! b&w $3.50

NEW **Multiple Warheads** 1 (Brandon Graham) WolfWar 3 ended almost 50 years ago and snow has been falling on Dead City for almost as long. A war-torn wasteland that stinks of radiation dust and broken dreams, it's the town Sexica and Nikoli call home. But not for long. 48pg b&w. $5.99

ONE SHOT **Narcoleptic Sunday** (Jeremy Haun & Brian Koschak) Jack Larch can sleep anywhere. Buses, police stations, strip clubs…. In fact, being a narcoleptic, he can't help but sleep. But Jack's condition doesn't make him a murderer. Or does it? $14.95

Sharknife Vol 2 *(Double Z;* Corey Lewis) Sharknife has fought 100 battles and its time to level up! But at what cost? Will he face defeat at the hands of his nemesis, Ombra the Orcasword? 200pg w&w $11.95

Stephen Colbert's Tek Jansen 3 (various) Everybody's favourite space hero has leapt into his own five-issue miniseries and earthmen and earthwomen everywhere are taking notice! $3.99

Platinum

NEW **Consumed** 1 (Asa Shumskas-Tait & Dennis Budd + Joe Caramanga) When nerdy Oliver falls in love with beautiful Casey, he has no idea that she's been marked by her ex-boyfriend Gavin to be possessed by Kavaleth, Lord of Kaos. $2.99

Kiss 4k 3 (Ricky Sprague & Daniel Campos + Kevin Crossley) When the Kiss 4K team, Demon, Starchild, King of All Beasts, Celestial, and Wicked Lester are attacked by the mad Dr Magus and his army of knights on horseback, they must learn to use recently discovered powers or be destroyed. $2.99

ONE SHOT **Nightfall** (Scott O. Brown & Ferran Xalabarder + Charlie Kirchoff) When industrious, right-wing survivalist David Paxton is sent to a tough Texas prison, he has no idea that it's secretly run by vampires, who use the inmates to feed on. 72pg $12.99

The Weapon 2 (Fred van Lente & Scott Koblish+ Paul Mounts) We all know tourists can be pushy, but when martial artist Tommy Zhou and his partner Megan search for the secret scroll of Bohidharma and the mystic techniques of the Wu Shu, they find they can be downright deadly. $2.99

Tokyopop

NEW **Avalon High: Coronation** Vol 1 (various) Being a new student at Avalon High has been exciting for Ellie, to say the least – she's an honour student, a star on the track team, and, oh yeah, dating the super-hot class president, Will. Who also happens to be the alleged reincarnation of King Arthur. 128pg $7.99

NEW **Battle of the Bands** Vol 1 (various) Meet Led Salad, the latest, hottest, all-girl band in a madcap world where bands fight each other for their fans – literally! 192pg $9.99

Earthlight Vol 2 (various) Earthlight has survived catastrophic accidents, political strife, and clamorous discord. But now the lunar colony faces a deadly threat from the very power satellites that orbit the moon, beaming much-needed energy back to Earth. 192pg . $9.99

NEW **Hannah Montana** Vol 1 (various) When Miley and her friends disobey their parents' curfews and try to meet Ashton Kutcher at his movie premiere, the super-sneaky adventure turns into an unbelievable family affair. 96pg $7.99

NEW **High School Musical** Vol 1 (various) While on winter vacation, high school hoops star Troy and brainy Gabriella meet at a karaoke contest and discover their mutual love for music. When Gabriella turns up as the new girl at Troy's school, they decide to audition for the upcoming musical! 96pg $7.99

Kedamono Damono Vol 2 (various) Konatsu is completely confused about Haruki's feelings toward her. She isn't sure if he even likes her! And if he does, is it the boy Haruki or the girl Haruki that really likes him?! 192pg $9.99

NEW **Kingdom Hearts II** Vol 1(various) In the quiet little hamlet of Twilight Town, there lives a boy named Roxas. He and his friends Hayner, Pence and Olette are trying to enjoy their final days of summer vacation, when strange things begin to happen. 208pg $9.99

NEW **Million Tears** Vol 1 (various) When friends and loved ones begin to disappear, his sense of reality begins to crumble – until the day he runs into a mysterious figure who can erase a person's very existence... 176pg $9.99

NEW **Me2** Vol 1 (various) Aki is a shy, introverted teen trying to cope with the death of her older brother. This, coupled with the daily pressures being the most bullied kid in school, lead to her having mysterious blackouts.192pg $9.99

NEW **Me & My Brothers** Vol 1 (various) When Sakura, a fourteen-year-old orphaned girl, discovers she has four half-brothers, her world is turned upside down as they're all forced to live under one roof... 216pg $9.99

Metamo Kiss Vol 2 (various) Who would suspect that Hanamaru and Nanao could switch bodies? Who else but Madoka, the school's paranormal geek? This crazy stalker will do anything to uncover a newsworthy secret! 176pg $9.99

NEW **War Angels** Vol 1 (various) It's the year 2504. In the aftermath of an apocalyptic war, the surviving humans are ruled by the Beasterians, animal-human hybrids created to be the ultimate soldiers, but who instead became merciless tyrants. 192pg $9.99

TwoMorrows

Alter Ego 70 (ed Roy Thomas) Spotlights Roy Thomas at Marvel in the 1970s, with his stint as editor-in-chief and one of the company's major writers. 100pg $6.95

Back Issue 23 (ed Michael Eury) Explores the inseparable worlds of comic books and cinema in a 'Comics Go Hollywood' issue. 108pg $6.95

Comic Introspective Vol 1 (*Peter Bagge;* Christopher Irving) A new book series that spotlights indy comics talent with an outside-the-box approach. Volume One features Peter Bagge, whose unique, expressive work runs the gamut from political to absurdist and satirical. 128pg $16.95

Draw! 14 (ed Mike Manley) Working 'how-to' tutorials from today's top pros in the industry. 80pg $6.95

Rough Stuff 5 (ed Bob McLeod) Celebrates the art of creating comics, presenting never-seen pencil sketches, layouts, roughs, and unused inked pages from throughout comics history, plus columns, critiques, and more! 100pg $6.95

Write Now 16 (ed Danny Fingeroth) Reflections on writing the Surfer by the character's greatest scripters of all time, including Stan Lee, Steve Englehart, Jim Starlin, George Perez, and J.M. Dematteis! 80pg $6.95

Virgin

ONE SHOT **Dave Stewart's: Walk-In** (Dave Stewart + Jeff Parker & Ashish Padlekar) Ian Dormouse is losing time – literally. He wakes up in cities across the world, and has no recollection of how he got there or what occurred in the preceding weeks and months.$14.99

Deepak Chopra Presents – India Authentic – Indra 3 (Deepak Chopra + Saurav Mohapatra & Virgin) "I am Indra, the son of Dyaus. I am Thunder! I am the King of Gods! Those that have stood before me have either become friends or have been crushed by my Vajra." $14.99

The Gamekeeper 4 (Guy Ritchie + Andy Diggle & Mukesh Singh) As Brock begins to piece together the mystery behind the death of Jonah Morgan, his own background is brought further to light. $14.99

ONE SHOT **Ramayan 3392 AD** Vol 1 (Deepak Chopra + Shekhar Kapur + Shamik Dasgupta, & Abhishek Singh) Enter a post-apocalyptic world where the last of humanity struggles to fight against the evil hordes of Nark, a dark continent lead by the monstrous Ravan.$14.99

Ramayan 3392 AD Reloaded 2 (Shamik Dasgupta & Jeevan J. Kang) The epic adventure continues as the heroes Rama, Lakshman and Seeta are lost in the perilous outlands, searching for a haven. $2.99

ONE SHOT **The Sadhu** (Gotham Chopra + Ashok Banker & Jeevan Kang + R. Manikandan) When James Jenson, a down-on-his-luck Englishman, is recruited into Queen Victoria's army and posted with his family in Colonial India, he takes the first step towards meeting his destiny. $14.99

Snake Woman – Tale of the Snake Charmer 2 (Zeb Wells & Vivek Shinde) Jessica completes her journey east and comes face to face with the Kabini Temple... the birthplace of the rage that has taken over her life.$2.99

ON SALE FROM
AUGUST 1

Dark Horse Comics

Buffy The Vampire Slayer 5 (Joss Whedon & Paul Lee + various) Buffy's new position as leader and figurehead of the world's five hundred most powerful women has made her a bigger target than ever before. 40pg $2.99

Fear Agent: The Last Goodbye 3 (Rick Remender & Tony Moore + Ande Parks) The human resistance, having compiled a powerful stock of alien munitions, has begun to do the unthinkable – fight back. $2.99

ONE SHOT **The Groo 25th Anniversary Special** (Mark Evanier & Sergio Aragonés + Tom Luth) Celebrate twenty-five years of the world's stupidest barbarian doing stupid and barbaric things! After a brief hiatus, the Champion of Cheese Dip is back to battle the menace of *The Plague*, an all-new story. 56pg $5.99

DC Comics

Action Comics 853 (Kurt Busiek & Brad Walker + John Livesay) The Countdown tie-in trilogy continues with. the Kryptonite Man on the loose, Mr Action on the prowl and Superman on the ropes! $2.99

The All-New Atom 14 (Gail Simone & Mike Norton & Trevor Scott) Ryan Choi, Donna Troy, Jason Todd and Bob the Monitor continue to search the Nanoverse for Ray Palmer – and the travellers find themselves in what some might call... Heaven. $2.99

ONE SHOT **Birds of Prey: Blood and Circuits** (Gail Simone + Tony Bedard & various; tpb) The Birds have a run-in with Black Alice, encounter the Dark Knight, and have a shake-up in their ranks in this action-packed collection! 208pg $17.99

Black Canary 3 (of 4; Tony Bedard & Paulo Siqueira + Amilton Santos) The League of Assassins makes their move to kidnap Black Canary's young charge, Sin... only to have Green Arrow thwart their plan. $2.99

Countdown #39 (various) The action ratchets up, guest-starring Zatanna, the Teen Titans, the JLA, Poison Ivy, the Penguin, the Atom and more! $2.99

Detective Comics 835 (John Rozum & Tom Mandrake) Jonathan Crane has discovered that being confined in Arkham simply means a captive audience for his experiments in fear. $2.99

The Exterminators 20 (Simon Oliver & Darick Robertson + John Lucas) Faced with overwhelming odds, the Bug-Bee crew locks and loads for its apocalyptic showdown with the invading Mayan Hisser army, while in the Ocran boardroom, the newly power-mad Laura is putting together a secret army of her own. $2.99

Faker 2 (of 6; Mike Carey & Jock) Freshman year of college is the ultimate time for reinvention – except when you can't physically justify why you even exist. This is the case for Nick Philo. $2.99

Jonah Hex 22 (Justin Gray + Jimmy Palmiotti & Phil Noto) Jonah Hex meets one of America's greatest inventors... with explosive results! $2.99

Justice League Unlimited 36 (Simon Spurrier & Min S. Ku + Jeff Albrecht) The Question is on the trail again, and this time he's investigating the entire Justice League! $2.25

Justice Society of America 8 (Geoff Johns & Fernando Pasarin) The spotlight turns to Liberty Belle as the All-American powerhouse races to stop the Justice Society's trouble young recruit, Damage, from making the worst mistake of his life. $2.99

ONE SHOT **King of Cards** Vol 1 (Makoto Tateno; *CMX)* Chaos is a trading card game that is very popular at Manami's school. Trying to learn more about it herself, she purchases a beginner's set, only to discover that it contains "Sahgan, The Mighty Sorcerer", the rarest card in the game. 208pg b&w $9.99

Looney Tunes 153 (Earl Kress & Omar Aranda + Alberto Saichann) The Evil Scientist has kidnapped the Looney Tunes and is going to show them their ancestors. Find out why when you play the Looney Tunes: Acme Arsenal video game! $2.25

MAD 481 (The Usual Gang of Idiots) The Usual Gang of Idiots deliver the late-summer laughs, with a bevy of spoofs and parodies! 48pg b&w $3.99

NEW **Metal Men** 1 (of 8; Duncan Rouleau) Doc Magnus's creations are ready to take on all-new threats and some old, reimagined ones: Chemo, Doctor Yes, B.O.L.T.S., The Balloonatic and his Orphan Army, as well as the Robot Renegades led by an old Manhunter Robot! $2.99

Midnighter 10 (Keith Giffen & Chris Sprouse + Karl Story) The Midnighter is the most self-assured member of The Authority; he's been called the world's best killing machine, and he knows what his job is and how to do it. He's never had any doubt about his chosen vocation... until now. .. $2.99

Nightwing 135 (Marv Wolfman & Jamal Igle + Keith Champagne) It's a brutal interrogation as Vigilante is determined to learn the truth about Metal Eddie and is willing to kill Dick Grayson to get it. $2.99

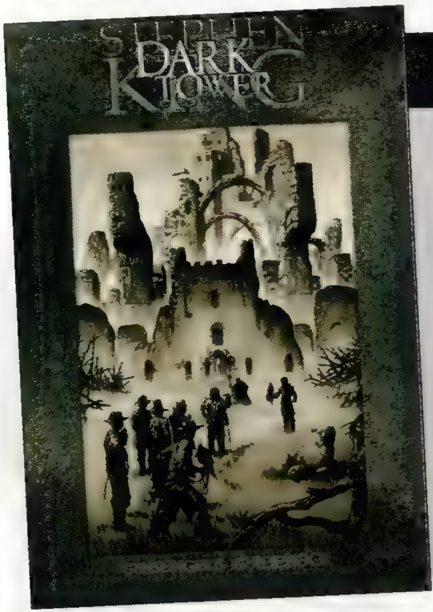
Omukae Desu Vol 5 (Meca Tanaka; *CMX)* Madoka loans his body out to a boy who wants to date Aguma, Madoka's fellow G.S.G. agent. When his body steals a kiss, Aguma's not sure which guy actually made the move! 192pg b&w $9.99

NEW **Outsiders: Five Of A Kind** 1 *(Nightwing/ Boomerang;* Nunzio DeFilippis + Christina Weir & Freddie Williams II) Five issues, five top creative teams, one team-up per week, as Batman takes control of the Outsiders by using these adventures to pick his new lineup! In Week 1, Batman's first vote is cast! The two Outsiders with just one thing in common – a troubled relationship to the Dark Knight – must reconcile their differences to go up against Chemo! $2.99

Scalped 8 (Jason Aaron & R.M. Guera) The man known only as Diesel may be a force to be reckoned with – which Dash Bad Horse finds out firsthand in this issue – but things weren't always easy for this wannabe Indian brave. $2.99

ONE SHOT **Scalped** Vol 1 *(Indian Country;* Jason Aaron & R.M. Guera) Jason Aaron, the hot new writer of the critically acclaimed series The Other Side, teams with gritty artist R.M. Guéra for an intense crime drama that mixes organised crime with current Native American culture. 128pg$9.99

Supergirl 20 (Tony Bedard & Renato Guedes + José Wilson Magalhães) Amid the carnage of war, Supergirl



CLOSE-UP

Dark Tower: Gunslinger's Guidebook

Dark days have befallen the once powerful Affiliation. As the Good Man's revolutionaries continue their assault on the civilisations of the Inner Baronies, young Gunslinger Roland Deschain of Gilead and his loyal ka-tet embark eastward on an undercover mission to the distant Outer Barony of Mejis on behalf of the Affiliation.

Anthony Flamini & Robin Furth | Marvel Comics | 48pg | $6.99

learns a terrible lesson that will follow her the rest of her days. $2.99

The Superman Chronicles Vol 3 (Jerry Siegel & Joe Shuster + various) Collecting Action Comics #21-25, Superman #4-5 and New York World's Fair 1940. 192pg $14.99

Supernatural: Origins 4 (Peter Johnson & Matthew Dow Smith) The next step in finding his wife's killer sees John Winchester and the Hunter making a journey to visit a priest in South Dakota. But is John ready for what the priest has to show him? Could he at last be reunited with Mary? $2.99

Welcome To Tranquility 9 (Gail Simone & Neil Googe) As the national spotlight is increasingly being shined on the small burg of Tranquility, the cracks begin to show. $2.99

Marvel Comics

Dark Tower: The Gunslinger Born 7 (of 7; Peter David + Robin Furth & Jae Lee + Richard Isanove) Roland and his ka-tet have their long-awaited showdown with Eldred Jonas and the Big Coffin Hunters. 48pg $3.99

ONE SHOT **Dark Tower: Gunslinger's Guidebook** (Anthony Flamini & Robin Furth) *See Close-Up on previous page.*

Fantastic Four And Power Pack 2 (of 4; Fred Van Lente & Gurihiru) Jack Power and Franklin Richards have run away from home together to make careers as solo heroes, and Power Pack has to track them down before Kraven The Hunter does! $2.99

Irredeemable Ant-Man 11 (Robert Kirkman & Phil Hester) Face-to-face with Mitch Carson, the agent he horribly scarred during his initial escape from S.H.I.E.L.D. and currently in S.H.I.E.L.D. custody – Eric O'Grady is in a bit of a pickle. $2.99

ONE SHOT **The Last Fantastic Four Story** (Stan Lee & John Romita Jr.) Legendary writer and Fantastic Four co-creator Stan Lee unites with artist John Romita Jr. to tell his final story of the team that started the Marvel age! 64pg $4.99

Marvel Adventures Spider-Man 30 (Peter David & Pop Mhan) There's a stiff wind rustlin' its way through Manhattan, straight towards Spidey! $2.99

Marvel Masterworks: Golden Age Sub-Mariner Vol 2 (various) Tales of action, mystery and thrills with death and danger on every page. 280pg $59.99

Ms Marvel 18 (Brian Reed & Aaron Lopresti) When Araña is kidnapped, it's time for Carol Danvers to use her newly expanded strike force to squash an evil that's hit too close to home! $2.99

ONE SHOT **Mystic Arcana: Scarlet Witch** (various) In the mountains of Eastern Europe a coven of gypsy witches meet to discuss an emerging young witch who prophecies say will surpass all other sorceresses. 40pg $2.99

New Avengers Vol 5 *(Civil War;* Brian Michael Bendis & various) The Avengers are about to go to war over their beliefs, and the shake-up will shock you. Collecting New Avengers #21-25. 120pg $14.99

New Avengers/Transformers 2 (of 4; Stuart Moore & Tyler Kirkham) Symkaria and Latveria sit on an international powder keg, and Dr Doom just lit the fuse! $2.99

New Excalibur 22 (Chris Claremont & Jeremy Haun) Albion's team has destroyed technology in England! The Excalibur team is on the ropes and Albion's forces are growing! ... $2.99

New Warriors 3 (Kevin Grevioux & Paco Medina) Sofia and Wondra face off as the New Warriors respond to Tony Stark's offer of amnesty. $2.99

Punisher 50 *(Long, Cold Dark* 1 of 5; Garth Ennis & Howard Chaykin) The Punisher's wildest foe is back! Left gut-shot in shark-infested waters, Barracuda's got a major score to settle with Frank Castle. But Barracuda's no dummy. 48pg Mature. $3.99

NEW **Shanna The She-Devil: Survival of The Fittest** 1 (of 4; Justin Gray + Jimmy Palmiotti & Khari Evans) Shanna the She-Devil returns in an all-new limited series jam-packed with jungle action, Hong Kong gangsters, dinosaurs, diamonds and cavemen! $2.99

NEW **Spider-Man/Red Sonja** 1 (of 5; Michael Avon Oeming & Mel Rubi) They may be from two different eras, but Spider-Man and Red Sonja have both faced the maniacal mage known as Kulan Gath. Now the sadistic sorcerer makes a play for power that will once again bring these two famous heroes together – but will it be as friends or foes? ... $2.99

Thor 2 (J. Michael Straczynski) A freak thunderstorm hit the wide open spaces of Oklahoma…the same day a young doctor named Donald Blake drove into town! $2.99

ONE SHOT **Thunderbolts Presents: Zemo – Born Better** (Fabian Nicieza & Tom Grummett) He is the last of13, taught for his entire life that he was born better; that a Zemo by blood is a superior person. So then why has he always failed? Collecting Thunderbolts Presents: Zemo – Born Better #1-4. 96pg $10.99

Ultimate X-Men Ultimate Collection Book 2 (various) Collecting the second year of Mark Millar's groundbreaking Ultimate X-Men – issues #13-25.. 336pg .. $24.99

Uncanny X-Men 489 (Ed Brubaker & Salvador Larroca) With the Morlocks committing terrorist acts, it's up to the X-Men to stop them and figure out why these normally-peaceful mutants have turned to violence. $2.99

ONE SHOT **Wisdom: Rudiments Of Wisdom** (Paul Cornell & Trevor Hairsine + Manuel Garcia) Pete Wisdom has a lot of fairies to kill. Yes, fairies are supposed to be nice and magical and charming, but they are currently attacking England. Collecting Wisdom #1-6. 144pg Mature readers. $21.99

World War Hulk 3 (of 5; Greg Pak & John Romita Jr) Can the Hulk survive a merciless assault by one of his oldest and most implacable opponents? 48pg $3.99

ONE SHOT **X-Men: Supernovas** (Mike Carey & Chris Bachalo) As old threats are still having their effects, new, more deadly threats emerge from the unlikeliest of places. Collecting X-Men #188-199 and Annual #1. 328pg $34.99

ON SALE FROM AUGUST 8

Dark Horse Comics

Blade of the Immortal 128 *(Badger Hole* 1 of 4; Hiroaki Samura) The Badger Hole is a tunnel of death that leads into Edo Castle, where Kagimura and Burando have been killing prisoners in their attempts to transfer and duplicate the kessen-chu immortality effect that runs through Manji's veins. b&w $2.99

NEW **B.P.R.D.: Killing Ground** 1 (of 5; Mike Mignola + John Arcudi & Guy Davis + Dave Stewart) Abe's encounter in Indonesia has brought a new member to the Bureau and Johann finds himself in possession of a very valuable commodity. $2.99

Star Wars: Legacy 15 *(Claws Of The Dragon;* 2 of 6; John Ostrander & Jan Duursema + various) In a reckless bid to right one of his many past wrongs, Cade Skywalker has become a prisoner of the Sith. It's a banner day for Emperor Darth Krayt, who hopes that Skywalker's abilities will complete Krayt's longtime quest to restore his own power. 40pg .. $2.99

Star Wars: Rebellion 9 (Rob Williams & Michel Lacombe + Wil Glass) The crimelord Raze has put a bomb inside Wyl Tarson's skull, which is why Wyl now leads a ragtag team on a suicide mission to compromise one of the Empire's greatest secrets! 40pg $2.99

DC Comics

100 Bullets Vol 11 *(Once Upon A Crime;* Brian Azzarello & Eduardo Risso) The Trust, Agent Graves and the Minutemen arrive in Mexico for a showdown that will mark the end for at least one major player, while the mystery behind the Atlantic City job is finally revealed. 192pg $12.99

ONE SHOT **Alan Moore: The Complete WildC.A.T.S** (Alan Moore & various; tpb) Collecting WildC.A.T.S. #21-34, plus a story from issue #50, featuring the impressive art of Travis Charest and other fine artists who provide breathtaking visuals. 392pg $29.99

Batman Confidential 8 (Michael Green & Denys Cowan + John Floyd) Batman crosses paths once again with the punk who will become his deadliest foe – The Joker – in a Gotham City that seems to be increasingly more deadly and psychotic. $2.99

The Batman Strikes! 36 (Josh Elder & Christopher Jones + Terry Beatty) Gearhead's turning Gotham City into a gigantic demolition derby! Batman's going to need all the help he can get, even if that means letting Batgirl get behind the wheel of the Batmobile! $2.25

NEW **Black Adam: The Dark Age** 1 (of 8; Peter J. Tomasi & various) With the power of the gods stripped from him, Teth-Adam is on a quest to find not only the magical word that will restore him as Black Adam, but also the one thing that always kept his heart from turning completely black with rage. .. $2.99

Cartoon Network Action Pack 16 (various) It's high adventure on the open road! Plus, Samurai Jack and the Kids Next Door! $2.25

Countdown #38 (various) Starting in this issue, a series of backup stories recounting the origins of DC's greatest villians, written by Scott Beatty. $2.99

FINAL VOL **The Devil Does Exist** Vol 11 (Mitsuba Takanashi; *CMX)* After their love had overcome almost every possible hurdle, Kayano was shocked to learn that Takeru decided to go to Italy with his formerly estranged mother. 180pg b&w$9.99

DMZ 22 (Brian Wood & Riccardo Burchielli) With the verdict on the Day 204 massacre hitting the headlines, the eyes of the world are once again on the DMZ. And just as tensions reach a boiling point, the military give the people of Manhattan a gift – the soldier responsible for it all. $2.99

Fables 64 (Bill Willingham & Aaron Alexovich) In this one-issue interlude from the Flycatcher saga, we turn our attention back to The Farm. Snow White and Bigby's cubs are turning five years old, so it's time for a celebration! But none of them are expecting the amazing present they get this year. Plus, the timelines between Fables and Jack Of Fables converge in strange, unexpected ways. $2.99

Gen^{13} #11 (Gail Simone & Carlo Barberi + Drew Geraci) It's goth meets geek as the Gen13 kids run afoul of Tranquility's garage band metahumans, the Liberty Snots. $2.99

Green Arrow: Year One 3 (of 6; Andy Diggle & Jock) Oliver Queen learns the sinister secret of the island he's been trapped on... just in time to come face to face with the mastermind behind his plight. $2.99

Green Lantern 22 (Geoff Johns & Ivan Reis + Oclair Albert) Stranded on Qward, Hal Jordan faces an army of Sinestro's greatest soldiers…and his secret weapon! $2.99

JLA Classified 41 (Peter Milligan & Carlos D'Anda) The Justice League intervene trying to salvage the good side of Kid Amazo's programming, but it seems they waited too long to act. $2.99

MAD Classics 17 (The Usual Gang of Idiots) Featuring the Best of the Web, MAD Marginals, Reader's Choice picks and much more! 64pg b&w . $4.99

Outsiders: Five of a Kind 2 *(Katana/Shazam;* Mike W. Barr & Kevin Sharpe + Robin Riggs) The souls of long-dead criminals roam the earth, forcing Tatsu Yamashiro to risk her own life by entering the realm to which she condemned them with her Soulsword! $2.99

ONE SHOT **Showcase Presents: Adam Strange** Vol 1 (Gardner Fox & various; tpb) The adventures of Adam Strange explode in this massive black-and-white volume collecting Showcase #17-19 and Mystery In Space #53-84! 552pg b&w $16.99

Stormwatch: PhD 10 (Christos Gage & Andy Smith) A killer has begun targeting retired Super Heroes, a number of whom are on the StormWatch pension plan. $2.99

Superman 666 (Kurt Busiek & Walter Simonson) Superman goes to Hell – literally – during the most nightmarish adventure of his heroic career, and a dread portent of that which may be coming! 48pg $3.99

Tenjho Tenge Vol 15 (Oh! great; *CMX)* Following her devastating battle with Kagiroi, Maya hovers near death. Then her sister Aya's astral projection is off to the past, beginning a continuing storyline in which the ancestral history of the Juken Club and their arch nemesis Sohaku is revealed. 208pg b&w$9.99

NEW **The Un-Men** 1 (John Whalen & Mike Hawthorne) They say the freaks come out at night. But in Aberrance, USA, freaks are big business. On the board of directors sit the freakiest freaks of all – birthed in the profane laboratories of Anton Arcane – The Un-Men. . $2.99

Marvel Comics

ONE SHOT **Amazing Fantasy Omnibus** HC (Stan Lee & various) A cadre of ten-storey tall menaces from Torr to Manoo to the one and only Monsteroso trash unwitting Earthlings 416pg $74.99

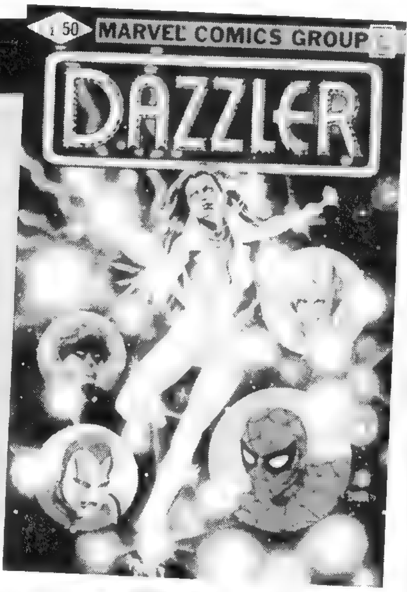
Amazing Spider-Girl 11 (Tom Defalco & Ron Frenz) Not only has Carnage captured her father and baby brother, but Spider-Girl realises that its new host is someone she knows! $2.99

CLOSE-UP

Essential Dazzler Vol 1

Disco may be dead, but Marvel's dynamic diva never says die! Beginning as a co-star with the X-Men and Spider-Man, Alison Blaire moved into a world of villains new and old, facing gangsters, gods and Galactus without skipping a beat! Plus: the Inhumans, the Hellfire Club and Project: Pegasus! Collects Dazzler #1-21, Uncanny X-Men #130-131 and Amazing Spider-Man #203.

various ◁ Marvel Comics | 552pg ◁ $16.99



Annihilation: Conquest – Wraith 2 (of 4; Javier Grillo-Marxuach & Kyle Hotz) Who has imprisoned Wraith, who is his fellow inmate, and who is their interrogator? $2.99

Avengers Classic 3 (Dwayne Mcduffie & Michael Avon Oeming) Hulk vs Avengers! For the very first time from Avengers 3! Plus, an all new Avengers tale Iron Man unveils his awesome red and gold armour. $2.99

FINAL ISSUE **Blade** 12 (Marc Guggenheim & Howard Chaykin) What is Blade's father's endgame? Will Blade keep his gun-hand? Will the Tryana prophecy be fulfilled and, if so, at what cost? $2.99

Civil War Chronicles 2 (J. Michael Straczynski + Mark Millar & Ron Garney + Steve Mcniven) Peter Parker makes the most important decision of his life. As the sides square off for the looming Civil War, he'll have to live with it. 72pg $4.99

ONE SHOT **Essential Dazzler** Vol 1 (various) *See Close-Up on facing page.*

Exiles 97 (Chris Claremont & Clayton Henry) The Exiles are split in a war when a horrifying secret is revealed about the Earth's population! . $2.99

Fantastic Five 3 (of 5; Tom Defalco & Ron Lim) Though his metal implants have been destroyed, a severely wounded but still fighting mad Ben Grimm must take on the cosmically-powered Dr Doom. $2.99

Ghost Rider 14 (*Revelations* 1 of 6; Daniel Way & Javier Saltares + Mark Texeira) Ghost Rider, now back in control after Johnny has (once again) proven himself to be…not so good at it, has begun his brutal final march toward Lucifer's ultimate destruction. $2.99

Ghost Rider Vol 2 (*The Life & Death of Johnny Blaze;* various) How did Johnny Blaze end up in Hell, anyway? It's simple, really: He died. And when he died, his eternal soul – long promised to Hell in exchange for saving Crash Simpson – descended into the Pit, taking the Ghost Rider along with it. Collecting Ghost Rider #6-11. 144pg $13.99

Hedge Knight II: Sworn Sword 3 (of 6; George R. R. Martin + Ben Avery & Mike S. Miller) Ser Duncan the Tall, known as Dunk to most, and his squire, Egg, find themselves in the middle of a war over water. ... $2.99

Incredible Hulk 109 (Greg Pak & Carlo Pagulayan) Boy genius Amadeus Cho pulled together a team of Renegades to side with his big green hero during World War Hulk – but what will happen to his faith in the Hulk's heroism when he discovers the horrors lurking beneath Madison Square Garden? $2.99

Marvel Adventures Fantastic Four Vol 6 (*Monsters And Mysteries;* Fred Van Lente & Clay Mann) Join Mr Fantastic, the Invisible Woman, the Human Torch and the Thing for a wild ride of all-new, unforgettable exploits. Collecting Marvel Adventures Fantastic Four #21-24. 96pg $6.99

Marvel Adventures Hulk 2 (Paul Benjamin & Juan Santacruz) On the run from authorities and trying to figure out a way to cure his gamma-irradiated curse, Bruce Banner enlists the help of Jamie Madrox, the Multiple Man. $2.99

Marvel Illustrated: The Man In The Iron Mask 2 (of 6; Roy Thomas & Hugo Petr) An incredibly daring plan is put into play as Musketeers Aramis and Porthos kidnap King Louis from his bed-chamber in the castle – and imprison him in the Bastille. .. $2.99

New Avengers 33 (Brian Michael Bendis & Leinil Francis Yu) Still reeling from the new reveals about their lives and shocking betrayal of one of their own, the New Avengers press forward, trying to find a way to trust each other. $2 99

New Avengers Vol 6 (*Revolution Premiere;* Brian Michael Bendis & Alex Maleev + Leinil Yu) Who is the new mystery player in the New Avengers? Find out here! Collecting New Avengers #26-31. 144pg $19.99

ONE SHOT **newuniversal** Vol 1 (*Everything Went White;* Warren Ellis & Salvador Larroca) Planet Earth. Inhabited by six billion people. People leading ordinary lives, coping with everyday struggles. But on a night like any other, the Earth is rocked by the most startling celestial event ever witnessed by the human race. The White Event. 144pg $19.99

Nova 5 (Dan Abnett + Andy Lanning & Sean Chen + Brian Denham) The Human Rocket is back in Kree space and – hey, who the blue blazes is that woman on the cover of this issue? $2.99

Omega Flight 5 (of 5; Michael Avon Oeming & Scott Kolins) The final climactic issue! And someone's not coming home... .... $2.99

Punisher War Journal 10 (Matt Fraction & Ariel Olivetti) The Punisher's one-man crusade to stop the white-power border war kicked off by the Hate-Monger comes to a head in this, the bloody conclusion to *Blood And Sand*. $2.99

Red Prophet: The Tales of Alvin Maker 10 (of 12; Orson Scott Card + Roland Bernard Brown & Rodney Buchemi) Alvin Junior, Ta-Kumsaw, and Taleswapper reach the mythical Eight-Face Mound, but will Alvin be able to heal his brutally injured friend, Measure, before it is too late? . $2.99

Runaways 28 (Joss Whedon & Michael Ryan) Love is in the air as the Runaways try and run back from 1907. .... $2.99

Sub-Mariner 3 (of 6; Matt Cherniss & Peter Johnson + Phil Briones) The clock is ticking as Atlantis' rogue sleeper cell prepares to strike again…they've killed 900 civilians on U.S. shores already, and S.H.I.E.L.D. places the blame squarely on Namor! ... $2.99

Thunderbolts 116 (Warren Ellis & Mike Deodato) The Thunderbolts' wild ride continues with part one of Caged Angels as Thunderbolts Mountain is being used as temporary incarceration for captured superhuman combatants. $2.99

Ultimate X-Men 85 (Robert Kirkman & Yanick Paquette) The X-Men have only been reformed for mere days, and they're already in the middle of a national crisis. $2.99

Wolverine: Origins Vol 3 (*Swift And Terrible;* Daniel Way & Steve Dillon) Having finally seen his face, Wolverine sets out to rescue his son from the grasp of the shadow society that once enslaved him. Collecting Wolverine: Origins #11-15. 120pg $19.99

Women of Marvel Vol 2 (various; tpb) More classic tales of Marvel's leading ladies! Featuring Kitty Pryde, Black Cat, Dagger, Spider-Woman, Tigra, Jubilee and more! 232pg $24.99

World War Hulk: Front Line 3 (of 6; Paul Jenkins + Ramon Bachs & Shawn Martinbrough + Chris Moreno) The Green Goliath has ordered the evacuation of New York City – so what story keeps reporters Ben Urich and Sally Floyd in the path of destruction? $2.99

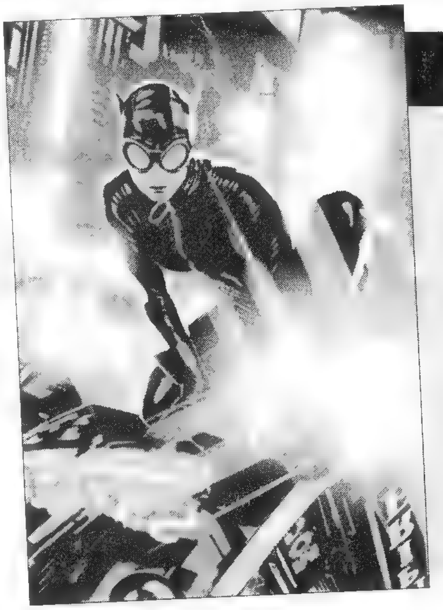
X-Factor 22 (Peter David & Pablo Raimondi) Meet Molly and Wally, two charming children who go around the country singing cheerful songs that incite people to violence against mutants. $2.99

ON SALE FROM

AUGUST 15

Dark Horse Comics

Conan 43 (Timothy Truman & Cary Nord) Trapped in the labyrinthine halls of the Red Priest's house, and stalked by a mysterious horror, Conan and his uneasy ally Murillo have made a wary alliance with the Priest himself. $2.99



CLOSE-UP

Catwoman: It's Only a Movie

But one year ago, following the events of Infinite Crisis, Catwoman became pregnant and decided to leave the costumed world behind. The father of the baby is revealed in this explosive collection featuring Catwoman #59-65. See the fallout from Catwoman's murder of Black Mask, including the horrible price she paid for vengeance and why she chose to bring a baby into the world.

Will Pfeifer & David Lopez + Alvaro Lopez | Marvel Comics | 168pg | $19.99

Hellboy: Darkness Calls 5 (of 6; Mike Mignola & Duncan Fegredo + Dave Stewart) Hellboy's struggle with Koshchei continues as Gruagach and the witches draw closer to their sinister quarry. $2.99

Rex Mundi 7 (Arvid Nelson & Juan Ferreyra) Julien has collapsed into an abyss of drunken apathy following his separation from Genevieve. The whereabouts of Genevieve and the Duke's daughter are unknown after the burning of Paris, while the German army has surrounded the remnants of Lorraine's forces in the city of Toulouse. 24pg $2.99

DC Comics

Action Comics 854 (Kurt Busiek & Brad Walker + John Livesay) The Countdown tie-in trilogy continues with the Kryptonite Man on the loose, Mr Action on the prowl and Superman on the ropes! $2.99

NEW **All-New Booster Gold** 1 (Geoff Johns + Jeff Katz & Dan Jurgens + Norm Rapmund) Following the universe altering conclusion of 52, Booster Gold wants what's due to him – a spot on the Justice League of America! ... $2.99

Amazons Attack 5 (Will Pfeifer & Pete Woods) Alliances fall to the wayside as fractures emerge in all sides of the conflict. Catwoman goes undercover to discover why a second threat has appeared on the field of battle. $2.99

Apothecarius Argentum Vol 2 (Tomomi Yamashita; *CMX)* Argent and Princess Primula have both experienced tears through the poisoning of the heart as well as the body. Now the shadows of the past come back to haunt Argent. 192pg b&w $9.99

Aquaman: Sword of Atlantis 55 (Tad Williams & Shawn McMan) Dire warnings about Dyss surround the never-still waters of Atlantis! ... $2.99

Army@Love 6 (Rick Veitch & Veitch + Gary Erskine) Loman rushes in where Flabbergast fears to tread. Showing up on Switzer's doorstep in Afbaghistan, he's intent on locating Healey's clinging wife, Allie, before Stelaphane makes her disappearance permanent. $2.99

Black Canary 4 (of 4; Tony Bedard & Paulo Siqueira + Amilton Santos) The League of Assassins makes their move to kidnap Black Canary's young charge, Sin. $2.99

The Brave And The Bold 6 (Mark Waid & George Pérez + Bob Wiacek) Green Lantern and Batman are horrified to discover the secret to the theft of the Book of Destiny, but before it can reach its rightful owner, the Book winds up in the hands of the only heroes in the DCU who aren't in its pages! $2.99

Catwoman 70 (Will Pfeifer & David Lopez + Alvaro Lopez) Catwoman's on the run and undercover. Batman chose her to infiltrate a new player in the Amazons' war on the U.S., but with her life in shambles, can she be trusted? $2.99

ONE SHOT **Catwoman: It's Only A Movie** (Will Pfeifer & David Lopez + Alvaro Lopez) *See Close-Up, above.*

Checkmate 17 (Greg Rucka + Eric Trautmann & Chris Samnee) If Checkmate's powerful enough to have a takedown plan for every hero and villain on Earth, why isn't its Alpine headquarters under assault 24/7? $2.99

Countdown #37 (various) Jimmy Olsen attempts to join not one but two exclusive clubs. $2.99

FINAL ISSUE **Deadman** 13 (Bruce Jones & John Watkiss) Sarah finally gets some answers when she faces the men behind the twisted plot to steal her baby, and Brandon must make a grave decision that could ultimately bring him peace in the afterlife. Mature readers. $2.99

The Flash: The Fastest Man Alive 15 (Marc Guggenheim & Tony S. Daniel + Art Thibert) Continuing the storyline so explosive they can't give anything away. $2.99

ONE SHOT **The Flash: The Greatest Stories Ever Told** (various) Collecting the finest Flash tales of all time! This fast-paced volume finds The Flashes locked in battle against their greatest foes, including Gorilla Grodd, The Reverse Flash and many others. 208pg $19.99

Friday The 13th : Pamela's Tale 2 (of 2; Marc Andreyko & Shawn Moll) Pamela's bloody tale of horror continues on the drive toward Camp Crystal Lake. But as the story of her son Jason progresses, Pamela's young passenger begins to suspect that not all is right in the Vorhees family...does she have anything to fear from the kindly older woman? $2.99

ONE SHOT **Good As Lily** (Derek Kirk Kim & Jesse Hamm) Grace Kwon is about to meet three of her closest friends – the only problem is that they're her past and future selves. 176pg b&w $9.99

Grifter & Midnighter 6 (of 6; Chuck Dixon & Ryan Benjamin + Saleem Crawford) To save the world one of them must die...again. The fight moves to another planet as Midnighter and Grifter battle against a planet-devouring race of non-sentient beings. The fate of the universe rests on the shoulders of two violent and unpredictable sociopaths. $2.99

Hellblazer 235 (Andy Diggle & Leonardo Manco) John Constantine's investigations into a spate of senseless attacks on a South London housing estate bring him to the attention of the estate's mysterious benefactor. $2.99

Justice League of America 12 (Brad Meltzer & various) *Monitor Duty* is an amazing day in the lives of the world's greatest heroes, as only the League's artist Ed Benes could envision! 40pg $3.50

The Highwaymen 3 (of 5; Marc Bernardin + Adam Freeman & Lee Garbett) Tires screeching and guns blazing, the Highwaymen roar into the resurrected city of Neo Orleans to find the doctor behind the mysterious Baker's Dozen – and to learn the explosive origins of young Grace Anderson. Who is she? Where did she come from? $2.99

The Legion of Super-Heroes In The 31st Century 5 (J. Torres & Alexander Serra) Whoever said lightning never strikes twice never met Lightning Lad! What starts as a friendly challenge turns into the storm of the century under Emerald Empress's watchful Eye, pitting Superman

CLOSE-UP

Ninja Scroll

Collecting the first five issues of the WildStorm series based on the international anime sensation following the adventures of wandering Ronin Jubei, as he scours feudal Japan while fighting all forms of villains and monsters! It is among the most popular anime of all time, along with films including Akira and Ghost in the Shell.

J. Torres & Michael Chang Ting Yu + various
DC Comics 144pg $19.99

against Lightning Lad for the fate of the Legion! $2.25

Musashi 9 Vol 12 (Miyuki Takahashi: *CMX)* The Omegas are now affiliated with Ultimate Blue. Their first assignment: protect the daughter of the president of a southeast Asian country. 208pg b&w $9 99

Outsiders: Five of a Kind 3 *(Thunder, Martian Manhunter;* Tony Bedard & Koi Turnbull + Art Thibert) Black Lightning s daughter and the Last Martian investigate a mystery at the centre of the earth – but the mystery only deepens when they find a New God on the run! $2.99

Robin 165 (Adam Beechen & Freddie E Williams II) To draw Robin into a confrontation, Dodge's hastily assembled group decides to raise the stakes by taking an entire hospital ward hostage! $2.99

Shadowpact 16 (Bill Willingham & Tom Derenick + Wayne Faucher) Zatanna and the Justice League join forces with Shadowpact to keep Doctor Gotham from controlling a city! $2.99

Superman/Batman 39 (Alan Burnett & Dustin Nguyen + Derek Fridolfs) Superman's gone crazy, Batman's using Boom Tubes, and the Parademons are up to no good. Darkseid must be up to something! b&w $2.99

Marvel Comics

Annihilation: Conquest – Quasar 2 (of 4, Christos Gage & Mike Lilly) Racing against the clock, pursued by a merciless adversary, Quasar – the rookie Protector of the Universe – and the former Avenger known as Moondragon arrive on a barren world which just may contain the key to saving an entire galaxy. $2.99

Astonishing X-Men 23 (Joss Whedon & John Cassaday) The end is near The situation is dire The outlook is bleak. But Cyclops has a plan $2.99

Captain America 29 (Ed Brubaker & Steve Epting + Mike Perkins) The Red Skull's minions have crawled out of the shadows to make another strike at the American spirit, still reeling from the death of Captain America. $2 99

D.P.7 Classic Vol1 (Mark Gruenwald & Paul Ryan tpb) Super-speed, super-strength, and superlative action from the creator of the ground-breaking Squadron Supreme miniseries. Collecting D.P.7 #1-9. 224pg $24.99

Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man 23 (Peter David & Todd Nauck) It's the end of an era as Peter David and Todd Nauck wrap up their run with a Black In Black tie in that finally brings J. Jonah Jameson face to face with the man he hates most. . . Peter Parker! $2 99

ONE SHOT **Iron Man: Director Of S.H.I.E.L.D.** (Daniel Knauf & Charlie Knauf + Patrick Zircher) It s day one of a new role for Tony as he takes up the mantle of the missing Nick Fury to lead S.H.I.E.L.D. into the 21st century 144pg . . $14 99

The Loners 5 (of 6; C.B. Cebulski & Karl Moline) Once a proud team of high-flying teenage heroes, the New Warriors has become the most hated name in all America. $2.99

Marvel Adventures Fantastic Four 27 (Fred Van Lente & Cory Hamscher) And you thought meeting your girlfriend's parents was uncomfortable... The Human Torch invites his new heartthrob Crystal's family over to the Baxter Building for dinner with his family without realising they're Black Bolt, Medusa, Gorgon, Triton, Karnak and Lockjaw ... The Inhumans! $2.99

Marvel Illustrated: Treasure Island 3 (of 6, Roy Thomas & Mario Gully) Realising that he shares lodging on the ship Hispaniola with mutineers, young Jim Hawkins makes his escape to shore and plunges deep into the island. $2.99

Marvel Masterworks: Captain Marvel Vol 2 (various) See the space-born hero, Mar-Vell's continuing battle against the vicious Kree Col, while Yon-Rogg continues this second sensational volume. Collecting Captain Marvel #10-21 272pg $54.99

New X-Men 41 (Christopher Yost + Craig Kyle & Skottie Young) Who will control Limbo? What is the fate of Illyana Rasputin? The Astonishing X-Men and Doctor Strange guest star as souls are shattered and lives are changed forever, and the very fate of the world rests on the children of the Xavier Institute. $2.99

Spider-Man Family 4 (Jeff Parker + Chris Giarrusso & Leonard Kirk + Chris Giarrusso) Peter Parker has a wonderful evening lined up for Mary Jane that starts with a horse carriage ride to a popular Broadway show. But then the stage magic becomes terrifyingly real and it's Spider-Man who has a date – with the secret superteam known as The Agents of Atlas! 104pg $4.99

Super-Villain Team-Up/M.O.D.O.K.'S 11 #2 (of 5, Fred Van Lente & Francis Portela) M.O.D.O.K. reveals the target of his heist to his handpicked team of Marvel's Most Wanted, the most powerful weapon in the universe, one that threatens the existence of all life on Earth. . $2.99

NEW **Terror, Inc.** 1 (of 5, David Lapham & Patrick Zircher) Meet Mr. Terror – he's dapper, he's charming, he owns and operates his own very successful business. . . and, oh yeah, he's fifteen and a half centuries old and rotting fast. Mature readers. $3.99

Ultimate Spider-Man 112 (Brian Michael Bendis & Stuart Immonen) There is a huge explosion in the side of the Triskelion – the side housing superhuman criminals. And from the acrid smoke emerges a man seething with vengeance a man who wants Peter Parker dead! $2.99

Ultimate Spider-Man Vol 17 *(Clone Saga;* Brian Michael Bendis & Mark Bagley) As Peter Parker tries to sort out his relationship with the X-Men's Kitty Pryde – and continue his friendship with Mary Jane a mall-food-court lunch turns into a free-for-all as Peter and MJ are interrupted by the debut of. . . the Ultimate Scorpion! 224pg ... $24.99

Wolverine: Origins 16 (Daniel Way & Steve Dillon) In the early days of WWII, before America's official involvement in the war, Captain America, still wet behind the ears, embarked on a clandestine mission to the island nation of Madripoor. Guess who he met there? 64pg $3.99

ON SALE FROM
AUGUST 22

Dark Horse Comics

NEW **Emily The Strange** 1 *(The Death Issue;* Rob Reger & Jessica Gruner + various) Bimonthly. Emily isn't afraid of much, and this is the issue where she proves that by going face-to-face with death itself. b&w 48pg $3.50

Lankhmar Book 3 *(Swords In The Mist,* Fritz Leiber) Lean times in Lankhmar force brothers-in-arms Fafhrd and the Gray Mouser to part ways. Only after a joust of wits and swords do the friends join together again, stealing the ship the Black Treasurer and sailing round and through The Claws. 224pg $12.95

DC Comics

All Star Superman 9 (Grant Morrison & Frank Quitely + Jamie Grant) Behold the Eisner Award winning creative powerhouse in another fantastic exhibition of All Star bravura! Perils loom as Superman faces the strangest of adversaries $2 99

NEW **Batman/Lobo: Deadly Serious** 1 (of 2; Sam Kieth) Batman, transported to an alien vessel by a mysterious figure, is asked to help cure a plague that has infected its inhabitants. 48pg $5 99

Birds of Prey 109 (Tony Bedard & Nicola Scott + Doug Hazlewood) When word reaches Oracle that Black Canary is considering a marriage proposal from Green Arrow, Barbara decides she must play devil's advocate to ensure Dinah doesn't make the biggest mistake of her life. $2.99

Blue Beetle 18 (John Rogers & Rafael Albuquerque) Beetle runs with the Titans! in a crossover with TEEN TITANS 50, it's boys and girls against The Main Man – Lobo! $2.99

Countdown #36 (various) Mary Marvel falls deeper into temptation. $2.99

Crossing Midnight 10 (Mike Carey & Eric Nguyen) Having arrived in Tokyo, Kai falls in with the enjokosai – middle- to high-school age girls who go on dates for money. Mature. $2.99

Green Arrow: Year One 4 (of 6; Andy Diggle & Jock) At long last Oliver Queen takes some responsibility for his fate. $2.99

Green Lantern Corps 15 (Dave Gibbons & Pat Gleason + Prentis Rollins) Wounded and alone, the biggest Green Lantern of them all must face a planet-sized opponent as the Sinestro Corps attacks. $2.99

Jsa Classified 29 (Arvid Nelson & Alex Sanchez) Mr Terrific is embroiled in a web of murder and deception when he uncovers a horrific secret about a member of the US Senate. $2.99

Manhunter Vol 3 *(Origins;* Marc Andreyko & various; tpb) Follow the adventures of crimefighter Kate Spencer in this volume collecting Manhunter 15-23 . ... . $17.99

ONE SHOT **Ninja Scroll** (J. Torres & Michael Chang Ting Yu + various; tpb) *See Close-Up, left.*

Outsiders: Five of a Kind 4 *(Metamorpho/Aquaman;* G. Willow Wilson & Joshua Middleton) International war is brewing over an ocean under the Sahara, and when Metamorpho and Aquaman intervene, they find it's also the home turf of another elemental who's got the Orb of Ra $2 99

Oyayubihime Infinity Vol 6 (Toru Fujieda; *CMX)* Believing she is free from the destiny of a past life, Kanoko is living comfortably in the present. She's falling deeper in love with Tsubame, the boy who first sent her on a journey of exploration into the past. 200pg b&w $9.99

The Programme 2 (of 12; Peter Milligan & C.P. Smith) As the Soviet superhuman Spirit of Lenin gathers the other Russian Dolls for war the U.S government scrambles to activate their own out-of-date superhuman programme. $2.99

Scooby-Doo 123 (various) It's **August** and there might be nothing scarier than going back to ghoul! But with the Scoobs at the head of the class, you can bet monsters and mayhem are about to get schooled! $2.25

ONE SHOT **Showcase Presents: Wonder Woman** Vol 1 TP (Robert Kanigher & Ross Andru + Mike Esposito) More than 500 pages of Amazonian action in this black and-white volume collecting Wonder Woman #98-117. 528pg b&w . $16 99

The Spirit 9 (Darwyn Cooke & Cooke + J. Bone) The gangs in Central City are being ritualistically destroyed, and now the killer is targeting The Spirit. All the clues point to Alvarro Mortez, the criminal who died with Denny Colt on that fateful night The Spirit came to be. Is he dead or alive? $2 99

Supergirl and the Legion of Super-Heroes 33 (Tony Bedard & Dennis Calero) The United Planets blames Cosmic Boy for war crimes! Star Boy and Sun Boy must clear his name. $2.99

Young Magician Vol 9 (Yuri Narushima; *CMX)* A new chapter begins in the lives of Carno and Ibuki. No longer fleeing from the forces of darkness, they are now living with Levi, former high priest of the Holy Knights. 208pg b&w $9.99

Marvel Comics

Annihilation: Conquest – Star-Lord 2 (of 4: Keith Giffen & Timothy Green II) The bullet casings fly as Star-Lord's motley crew of cult faves goes to war! $2.99

Black Panther 30 (Reginald Hudlin & Francis Portela) After taking a wrong turn on the dimensional super highway, the New Fantastic Four have just become the daily special in the Zombie Universe! $2.99

Cable & Deadpool 44 (Fabian Nicieza & Reilly Brown) One of them would like to pierce HYDRA's newest sector commander with three adamantium claws. One of them would prefer to woo and soothe that commander with friendship and silicon chips. Can we all agree to disagree without turning this into a bloody, gory, intestine-spewing fight? Probably not... .... $2 99

Criminal 9 (Ed Brubaker & Sean Phillips) Tracy Lawless continues his relentless hunt for the truth about his brother's murder, as he sinks deeper and deeper into the criminal world his little brother lived and died in. Mature readers. $2.99

Heroes For Hire Vol 2 *(Ahead of the Curve;* Justin Gray + Jimmy Palmiotti & Zeb Wells + Al Rio) Marvel's strangest team of heroes find themselves trapped in the hull of a ship with a bomb as the Grim Reaper plans to blow up the Statue of Liberty and take the Heroes for Hire with it! Collecting Heroes For Hire #6 10 120pg $13.99

Immortal Iron Fist 9 (Ed Brubaker & Matt Fraction & David Aja) Daniel Rand has found himself forced to take part in a reality-spanning kung fu championship that matches the seven Immortal Weapons like himself against one another. $2.99

Iron Man 21 (Daniel Knauf & Charlie Knauf + Roberto De La Torre) Tony Stark's duties with S.H.I.E.L.D. and the Initiative take him to Omaha, Nebraska, where Iron Man encounters an old hero with a grudge, and two all-new superhumans! $2.99

Fantastic Five 4 (of 5; Tom Defalco & Ron Lim) Dr Doom reveals unexpected super-allies in his quest to destroy the Fantastic Five and conquer the entire world! $2.99

Laurell K. Hamilton's Anita Blake – Vampire Hunter: The First Death 2 (of 2; Laurell K. Hamilton & Jonathon Green + Wellinton Alves) Laurell K. Hamilton and Jonathon Green reveal even more exciting secrets from the past of Anita Blake in this very special two-part series. 40pg $3.99

Marvel Adventures Iron Man 4 (Fred Van Lente & James Cordeiro) Spymaster has seized remote control of Iron Man's armour (with Tony Stark in it) and sent Shellhead on a rampage of destruction through New York!$2.99

Marvel Adventures The Avengers 15 (Jeff Parker & Leonard Kirk) Sound your horn, Heimdall! Villains march across Bifrost Bridge, to challenge the forces of Odin! But wait... who are these mortals that count themselves as friends of Thor? Avengers? $2.99

Marvel Illustrated: Last of the Mohicans 4 (of 6; Roy Thomas & Steve Kurth) Hawkeye and his intrepid companions make a daring escape by canoe from the pursuing Huron Indians as their search for the missing women, Alice and Cora, take them to the wild country of Delaware. $2.99

ONE SHOT **Marvel Spotlight: Halo** (John Rhett Thomas) Bringing comic readers unfamiliar with the world of Halo up close to the mythos that is providing fertile ground for so many stories. $2.99

Moon Knight 12 (Charlie Huston & Mico Suayan) It all comes down to this. A grudge match. Two former friends slugging it out under the night sky - Moon Knight and his former sidekick, Midnight. $2.99

Powers 28 (Brian Michael Bendis & Michael Avon Oeming) Homicide detectives Christian Walker and Deena Pilgrim investigate murders specific to superhero cases, and they both have a secret: They both have powers. Mature readers. 40pg $3.95

Sensational Spider-Man 40 (*The Book of Peter* 1 of 1; Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa & Clayton Crain) In his darkest hour, Peter demands answers. And the only person who can give them to him is…God? $2.99

ONE SHOT **Spider-Girl Presents The Buzz & Darkdevil** (Tom Defalco + Ron Frenz & Ron Frenz) Peer into the future's past to see Spider-Girl's ill-mannered mentor face the mortal machinations of the Kingpin and the more mystical ones of Zarathos, one-time Ghost Rider! 112pg $7.99

Spider-Man Fairy Tales 4 (of 4; C.B. Cebulski & Nick Dragotta + Mike Allred) In search of a husband for Princess Gwendolyn, a costume ball is thrown for the suitable young men of the Kingdom, but when the mysterious Spider Prince arrives, that's when the trouble begins. $2.99

Thor Visionaries: Walter Simonson Vol 4 (Walter Simonson & Sal Buscema) Balder the Brave, Thor's brother in all but blood, undergoes his own gauntlet of gods and giants – earning the love of witch-queen Karnilla and the throne of Asgard! Collecting Thor #371-374 and Balder The Brave #1-4. 192pg $24.99

Ultimate Fantastic Four 45 (*The Silver Surfer* 4 of 5; Mike Carey & Pasqual Ferry) The F.F. and The Silver Surfer shrink to sub-atomic size to battle the dreaded Psycho-Man – who has taken all of Earth's population hostage. $2.99

Wolverine 56 (Jason Aaron & Howard Chaykin) Wendell Rayfield is a down on his luck ex-cop who's looking down the business end of 40 with no hope for the future and with demons from his past still haunting him at every turn. All he has going for him is his new job. A job that involves a very large machine gun, a hole in the ground, a certain hirsute mutant and several thousand bullets. 48pg $3.99

World War Hulk: Gamma Corps 2 (of 4; Frank Tieri & Staz Johnson) The Gamma Corps want the Hulk dead – but why? Find out this issue as we explore the individual origins of Corp members Prodigy, Mess, Mr Gabriel and Griffin. $2.99

ONE SHOT **World War Hulk: Gamma Files** (various) Who are the rebellious Renegades? Why did the young upstart Mastermind Excello search for the Hulk? How many identities and powers has Rick Jones had? 48pg $3.99

ONE SHOT **X-23: Target X** (Craig Kyle & Christopher Yost + Mike Choi) Having escaped the Facility that created her, X-23 struggles to create a real life for herself. 144pg $15.99

X-Men 202 (Mike Carey & Humberto Ramos) The Xavier Academy is under siege, and the full, appalling scale of the Marauders' plans is finally becoming clear. $2.99

X-Men: First Class 3 (Jeff Parker & Roger Cruz) The five young mutants realise that the words "survival" and "Monster Island" just don't have much to do with each other. $2.99

ON SALE FROM

AUGUST 29

Dark Horse Comics

City of Others 4 (Steve Niles & Bernie Wrightson + José Villarrubia) Former serial-killer-for-hire Stosh Blud Bludowski has made his choice. He's now a full-fledged monster – a vampiric Other, ironically now more emotionally human than he ever was as a man. $2.99

Star Wars: Dark Times 6 (*Parallels* 1 (of 5; Mick Harrison & Dave Ross) In the last days of the Clone Wars, Jedi Master K'Kruhk finds his fate altered by Order 66 in ways he could not have imagined. Now it is not just his own life that depends on his skills, but the lives of many. 40pg $2.99

Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic 20 (John Jackson Miller & Bong Dazo + Michael Atiyeh) A defining moment in the history of the galaxy arrives as the Republic and the Mandalorians meet face-to-face to discuss an offer that adds up to one thing – victory for one, defeat for the other! 40pg $2.99

Usagi Yojimbo 105 (Stan Sakai) Rabbit ronin Usagi investigates a killing, only to uncover more questions and some surprising revelations. b&w 24pg $2.99

DC Comics

52 Aftermath: The Four Horsemen (Keith Giffen & Pat Olliffe + Drew Geraci) From the ashes of devastated Bialya they rise again in the Four Horsemen War, Pestilence, Famine, Death - living embodiments of the Dread Ages of Apokolips. . $2.99

Action Comics 855 (Geoff Johns + Richard Donner & Eric Powell) Bizarro returns to kidnap one of the most important people in Superman's life. But what does the twisted, ersatz Man of Steel want? $2.99

Amazons Attack 6 (Will Pfeifer & Pete Woods) It's all-out carnage and mayhem as all factions in the war fight the final battle! $2.99

American Virgin 18 (*Around the World* 4 of 5; Steven Seagle & Becky Cloonan + Jim Rugg) Adam Chamberlain is having enough trouble trying to figure out what to do or not do with the opposite sex. So how does the third sex fit into the picture? ... $2.99

Batman Annual 26 (*Head of the Demon;* Peter Milligan & David Lopez + Alvaro Lopez) The definitive origin of Ra's al Ghul, Batman's greatest foe, is finally revealed in this annual from writer Peter Milligan and the art team of David Lopez + Alvaro Lopez. 48pg $3.99

ONE SHOT **Batman: Secrets of the Batcave** (various) Featuring stories from Batman 12, 35, 48, 109 and 348, Detective Comics 158, 186, 205, 233, 235, and 244, and more. 192pg $17.99

Cartoon Network Block Party 36 (various) After Bloo meets a cool biker dude, he wants to copy him by getting a tattoo of Mac to show the world who his best friend is! $2.25

ONE SHOT **The Complete Bite Club** (Howard Chaykin & David Tischman + David Hahn; tpb) *See Close-Up, above.*

Countdown #35 (various) Donna Troy and Jason Todd journey into the Nanoverse! $2.99

NEW **Countdown To Adventure** 1 (of 8; Adam Beechen + Justin Gray & Eddy Barrows + Fabrizio Fiorentino) Adam Strange, Starfire and Animal Man star in an explosive new series. Now that they've returned to their respective homes, where do they go from here? 48pg $3.99

ONE SHOT **DC/Top Cow: Crossover Classics** (various) The greatest heroes from two publishers DC Comics and Top Cow – meet for the first time and face off against each other and their greatest foes in this collection! 200pg $14.99

The Empty Empire Vol 5 (Naoe Kita; *CMX)* Rose has fallen for Ririka, the girl who was loved by the man from who he was cloned – the late Emperor Idea. 192pg b&w $9.99

ONE SHOT **Ex Machina: Masquerade Special** (Brian K. Vaughan & John Paul Leon) Halloween comes early to Manhattan in this all-new story from Mayor Mitchell Hundred's super-heroic past. 40pg $3.50

Jack of Fables 14 (Bill Willingham & Tony Akins + Andrew Pepoy) Now Jack's the centre of all stories, huh? And if the story in question happens to involve a famous sword stuck in a famous stone, it probably shouldn't surprise us that Jack gets to play the stone. ... $2.99

Ninja Scroll 12 (J. Torres & Michael Chang Ting Yu) Jubei wanders into a remote town, but instead of the usual suspicious or hostile reception, people seem to want him there. $2.99

Outsiders: Five of a Kind 5 (*Grace/Wonder Woman;* Marc Andreyko & Cliff Richards + Art Thibert) The shocking aftermath of the Amazons' assault on Washington, D.C. forces an unlikely alliance between two-fisted Grace Choi and the Amazonian princess as they team up to find a time bomb like no other hidden in America's heartland! $2.99

Superman Confidential 7 (Jimmy Palmiotti + Justin Gray & Koi Turnbull + Sandra Hope) The fate of Metropolis is at stake when Superman gets mixed up with Lori Lemaris! $2.99

ONE SHOT **Tangent Comics** Vol 1 (various; tpb) In 1997, DC's Tangent event presented a group of strange new heroes with very familiar names. Now, these hard-hitting heroes are back in a fantastic new collection. 208pg $19.99

Teen Titans 50 (various) The Titans bury another friend and ends with a deadly, familiar threat as well as an addition to the team. 48pg $3.99

Teen Titans Go! 46 (J. Torres & Todd Nauck + Lary Stucker) Introducing…Wildfire! It's a family reunion when Starfire's long lost brother is found and visits Earth. But will he turn out to be a friend to the Titans like Starfire, or more of a foe like Blackfire? $2.25

Trials of Shazam 9 (of 12; Judd Winick & Howard Porter) It's the new Shazam versus a god as Freedy Freeman's trials have him going toe-to-toe with Apollo! $2.99

Wetworks 12 (J.M. DeMatteis & Joel Gomez + Trevor Scott) The vampire known as Red comes clean to Dane about her former life as an assassin, as well as her reason for joining the Wetworks team. ... $2.99

Wonder Woman 12 (J. Torres & Paco Diaz) As the Amazon war reaches a climax, Wonder Woman begins a desperate search for a missing comrade whose fate is inextricably tied to the future of Special Agent Diana Prince! $2.99

Marvel Comics

ONE SHOT **Amazing Spider-Man: One More Day Sketchbook** (Jim Mccann & Joe Quesada) The hottest, most controversial storyline to hit Spider-Man is coming next month. Are you ready? Get into the mind of Marvel EiC, and One More Day artist, Joe Quesada for hints as to what lies in store for Peter. .. $2.99

Avengers: The Initiative 5 (*Green Zone* 2 of 2; Dan Slott & Stefano Caselli) The Initiative programme denies all knowledge of a special Black Ops Team, and there is no pardon on file for the super-villain known as the Constrictor. $2.99

DO
NOT
CROSS

CLOSE-UP

The Complete Bite Club

The Sopranos have nothing on the Del Toros, a vampire clan that has run organized crime in Miami for nearly a century. Beautiful, rich and immortal, these bloodsuckers are also masters of backstabbing and in-fighting. This collection includes both the original critically acclaimed Bite Club series and its sequel, Bite Club: Vampire Crime Unit.

Howard Chaykin & David Tischman + David Hahn | DC Comics | 264pg | $19.99

Cable & Deadpool Vol 7 (*Separation Anxiety;* Fabian Nicieza & Reilly Brown) Deadpool has decided to face the skeletons in his closet, dive deep into that dark void he calls a soul and rattle things up a bit. Collecting Cable & Deadpool #36-42. 176pg . $17.99

Daredevil 100 (Ed Brubaker & various) Daredevil fights for his life, facing his own worst nightmares come true! 104pg $3.99

Essential Daredevil Vol 4 (various) Mister Kline's android-laden efforts steer Daredevil and the Black Widow together for a trial whose tribulations could mean the end of the fabled Nelson and Murdock partnership! Collecting Daredevil #75-101 and Avengers #111. 600pg $16.99

Fantastic Four 549 (Dwayne Mcduffie & Paul Pelletier) The Frightful Four have made a tragic miscalculation in their plans for revenge, as Reed and Sue have now returned to the FF and that makes the odds six to four… .. $2.99

Halo: Uprising 2 (of 4; Brian Michael Bendis & Alex Maleev) Master Chief is captured and interrogated by Covenant forces. While back on Earth, a star-crossed human couple tries to stay alive as every single thing they hold dear is taken from them. 40pg$3.99

Heroes For Hire 13 (Zeb Wells + Fred Van Lente & Clay Mann + John Bosco) The Heroes for Hire find themselves in the middle of World War Hulk when their mission to Hulk's stoneship leaves them on the Warbound's death list! $2.99

ONE SHOT **Hulk and Power Pack: Pack Smash!** (various) Power Pack couldn't be more excited to meet their father's new colleague, the world-famous Dr. Bruce Banner. But when the kids find themselves trapped in the tunnels beneath Manhattan by the Absorbing Man, they find out what happens when the good doctor gets angry! 96pg $6.99

Magician Apprentice 10 (of 12; Raymond E. Feist + Bryan J. Glass & Ryan Stegman) Political schemes abound as the kingdom teeters on the brink of Tsurani invasion. $2.99

Silver Surfer: Requiem 4 (of 4; J. Michael Straczynski) For untold years, Norrin Radd surfed the galaxy, exploring the darkness between stars, witnessing the rise and fall of vast civilisations. Now his ride comes to an end. $3.99

Ultimate Power 7 (of 9; Jeph Loeb & Greg Land) Squadron Supreme versus The Ultimates - some will live, some may die -and you'll never guess who wins! $2.99

Daredevil: Battlin' Jack Murdock 3 (of 4; Zeb Wells + Carmine Di Giandomenico & Zeb Wells + Carmine Di Giandomenico) After several years as a whiskey-soaked, washed-up boxer-turned-mob enforcer, the palooka Jack Murdock has turned his life around. He's cleaned himself up, seen his son Matt off to law school and revitalised his career. $3.99

Doktor Sleepless 2 (Warren Ellis & Ivan Rodriguez) Who is Doktor Sleepless, broadcasting strange pirate radio from the weird mansion-laboratory overlooking Heavenside? What does he really intend to do to the future? $3.99

Night of the Living Dead: Hunger (John Russo & Ryan Waterhouse) Starving herself for the sake of vanity, drive-in theatre employee Laura Crampton is about to fall victim to stark-raving terror, but it will not been generated by the grade-Z horror film flickering on the outdoor screen. 16pg $2.99

Plague of the Living Dead 5 (of 6; John Russo & Dheeraj Verma) Taking refuge in a high school gymnasium with a handful of survivors, three Vietnam veterans must decide if their choice was the wisest one. 16pg $2.50

Bongo Comics

Bart Simpson Comics 37 (Templeton) Bartman goes mano y loco with Dr Colossus when Springfield's resident supervillain uses a special ray to turn everyone in town into a ten-year-old. $2.99

Simpsons Comics 133 (Dixon & Costanza) When we last saw Mr Burns, he was destitute and adrift. Now we return with a *Brand New Burns*.$2.99

Jenny Finn: Doom Messiah 2 of 4(Mike Mignola & Troy Nixey) The whore killer is now dead, but is everything what it seems? Joe investigates the mysterious Jenny Finn, which leads to a séance, and a startling revelation about where Jenny came from, and how. $2.99

ONE SHOT **Jeremiah Harm** (Keith Giffen + Alan Grant & Rael Lyra + Rafael Albuquerque) When three of the galaxy's most fearsome criminals escape confinement on a prison planet and wind up on Earth, the authorities have no choice but to free the most wanted man in the universe – Jeremiah Harm – to track these fugitives down and stop them. 128pg $14.99

Left On Mission 5 (of 5; Chip Mosher & Francesco Francavilla) It's all over. Eric catches up with Emma, but is he too late? As she meets the Russians to create the transaction, will the agency kill her to prevent their secrets from getting out? $3.99

North Wind 2 (of 5; David DiGillio & Brett Weldele) Global warming has created climate change, as a new Ice Age covers the planet. Downtown Los Angeles exists under ice, where a new despot has grown in power and mankind now uses burning books as a fuel source! Into this era strides a new hero. $3.99

CLOSE-UP

The Art of Greg Capullo

Containing Capullo's very best comics illustration work, this collection of drawing and paintings removes the text and logos from all those covers, and lets you take a good long look at the art itself. This collection features many never-before-seen pieces, with Greg taking you step-by-step through the creation of the new cover painting for the softcover.

Greg Capullo | DC Comics | 160pg | $24.99

THE ART OF GREG CAPULLO
MADMEN, BROADS, AND MONSTERS
FEATURING WORK NEVER SEEN BEFORE BY THIS MODERN MASTER!

World War Hulk: Front Line 4 (of 6; Paul Jenkins + Ramon Bachs & Shawn Martinbrough + Chris Moreno) The Green Goliath has ordered the evacuation of New York City – so what story keeps reporters Ben Urich and Sally Floyd in the path of destruction? $2.99

World War Hulk: X-Men 3 (of 3; Christos Gage & Andrea Di Vito) Hulk vs the Juggernaut and whatever X-Men are left standing in a battle that will have lasting consequences for one of the combatants! $2.99

RELEASED AND ON SALE IN

AUGUST

Avatar Press

NEW **Black Summer** 1 (of 7; Warren Ellis & Juan Jose Ryp) The politics of the President have forced Horus to take matters into his own hands. But now his old team is going to be hunted for the crimes Horus committed. $2.99

Boom!

ONE SHOT **Death Valley** (Johanna Stokes + Andrew Cosby & Rhoald Marcell) Samantha's graduating from high school in the Valley – getting together with her pals to throw an End of the World party to celebrate, everyone ends up accidentally locked in a bomb shelter. 128pg $14.99

Dominion 5 (of 5; Michael Alan Nelson & Tim Hamilton) Dick has been infected himself as Chicago stands on the brink of utter destruction. How will he survive, and save the city as well? $3.99

Fall of Cthulhu 7(Michael Alan Nelson & Jean Jacques Dzialowski) Cy is gone, but the dark machinations that surround his discoveries continue. A war is brewing, as the Dreamlands is in upheaval and Mister Arkham plots his strategy on Earth. $3.99

Foundation 2 (of 5; John Rozum & Chee) The Foundation has now revealed itself to one unlikely man and recruited him into their ranks. Using the lost texts of Nostradamus, the knowledge of the future is theirs. $3.99

ONE SHOT **Planetary Brigade** (Keith Giffen and J.M. DeMatteis & various) The Planetary Brigade is a group of heroes fronted by Squared's Captain Valor and Grim Knight. Meet Mr Brilliant, Earth Goddess, Purring Pussycat, The Third Eye and the Mauve Visitor. 128pg $14.99

Salvador 4 (of 5, Michael + Mark Polish & Sebastian A. Jones + Steph Stamb) The future: gene modification and genetic testing have reshaped the world. Into this future, a fragile superman is born. $3.99

ONE SHOT **The Savage Brothers** (Johanna Stokes + Andrew Cosby & Rafael Albuquerque) When hell comes to earth in a supernatural apocalypse, salvage yard owners Dale (he's the con man) and Otis (he's the muscle) don't run for their lives They settle in and crack some beers! 128pg $14.99

Station 3 (of 5; Johanna Stokes & Leno Jefferson) Some 220 miles above the earth's surface, things get worse. The crew grows increasingly tense and paranoid knowing that there's a killer amongst them. $3.99

ONE SHOT **X Isle** (Andrew Cosby + Michael Alan Nelson & Greg Scott) A team of researchers drift on the ocean, lost, in their quest for an enigmatic island that's never been explored. Washing on its shores, they find a dense, terrifying jungle populated with animal and plant life that has evolved along a completely different path. What secret does this isle hold? 128pg $14.99

Desperado

NEW **Black Mist** 1 (of 2; James Pruett & Mike Perkins) The corpse of a recently murdered woman. The Death Cult of Kali. The reincarnation of a dark goddess of death. An unwilling host must struggle internally between an ancient evil and her own conscience. What happens when you give in to the dark nature of your own soul? 64pg $5.99

Black Mist 2 (of 2, James Pruett & Mike Perkins + Robert Grabe) Will Lonnie fulfil her prophecy as the Destructor or can her adopted daughter reach through the mesmerizing influence of the Mist and rescue her last remnants of humanity? 64pg $5.99

Cherubs 2 (of 4; Bryan Talbot & Mark Stafford) On the trail of the murdering archangel Abaddon, the Cherubs get stuck in the mind-numbing mediocrity of Limbo - but not for long. b&w $3.99

Negative Burn 13 (various) The Eagle, Eisner, and Harvey Award nominated anthology returns this month with yet another issue packed with today's top creators and tomorrow's brightest talents. 64pg b&w . $5.99

Of Scenes and Stories (various; tpb) From the writer and creator of Baker Street, Renfield, Deadworld, Saint Germaine, and dozens of others comes a collection of works spotlighting the insightful writing talent of Gary Reed. 304pg b&w $19.99

Starchild: Mythopolis II #1 (James A. Owen) This quarterly series will not only complete the saga of Starchild with new 20 page chapters, but also feature a collaborative short story section called *Tales From the Two Penny Inn*. 96pg b&w $6.99

NEW **Thirteen Steps** 1 (Phil Hester + Chuck Satterlee & Kevin Mellon) Semi-pro baseball player Justin Ullrich has a problem… he's a werewolf and he wants to talk, but nobody's listening. 40pg b&w $3.99

Fantagraphics

Castle Waiting Vol II 8 (Linda Medley) In the latest chapter of Linda Medley's witty and beautifully drawn fantasy comic, Jain, Tolly and Simon explore the Castle's recently-discovered secret passageway. 24pg b&w $3.95

ONE SHOT **The Complete Peanuts 1965-1966** (Charles M. Schulz) We are now in the mid-1960s, one of Schulz's peak periods of creativity. Snoopy has become the strip's dominant personality, and this volume marks two milestones for the character: the first of many dogfights with the nefarious Red Baron, and the launch of his writing career. 344pg b&w $28.95

ONE SHOT **Johnny Ryan's XXX Scumbag Party** (Johnny Ryan) Features such signature Ryan characters as Boobs Pooter, Loady McGee, Sinus O'Gynus, Baby Johnson, and Blecky Yuckerella. 176pg $18.95

ONE SHOT **The Kat Who Walked In Beauty Krazy & Ignatz: The Panoramic Dailies of 1920** (George Herriman; Ed Derya Ataker) Collects many rare and unique dailies from the 1910s and 1920s. 144pg b&w $29.95

ONE SHOT **Mean** (Steven Weissman) Collecting Weissman's early, self-published, unpublished, and otherwise rare "Yikes" comics. 128pg $16.95

Squa Tront 12 (various) Unpublished interviews with Harvey Kurtzman and Jack Kamen. Publisher Lyle Stuart talks about his days as EC's business manager. Writer Larry Siegel reminisces about Harvey Kurtzman, MAD and Humbug. 64pg $9.95

ONE SHOT **Where's Dennis? The Magazine Cartoon Art Of Hank Ketcham** (Alex Chun & Jacob Covey) In these gag cartoons, which were primarily published between 1942 and 1950, one can already see the endearing troublemaker that would become the protagonist in the long-running strip. 200pg b&w $19.95

IDW

30 Days Of Night: Eben And Stella 4 (Steve Niles + Kelly Sue DeConnick & Justin Randall) At sundown in the desert where nightmares converge in a roadside eatery called the Cracker Pot. Carl comes face-to-face with the monster who cost him his hand... and his sanity. $3.99

Clive Barker's The Great And Secret Show Vol 2 (Chris Ryall & Gabriel Rodriguez) It ends here! The second half of an adaptation of master of horror Clive Barker's epic journey into the fantastic, The Great and Secret Show. 132pg $19.99

NEW **Dominatrix** 1 (Sean Taylor & Flavio Hoffe) Dominique Stern, a professional dominatrix, becomes ensnared in a world of government cover-ups and international conspiracies. $3.99

Fallen Angel 19 (Peter David & J.K. Woodward) Concluding the landmark crossover between Fallen Angel and Billy Tucci's Shi, the embattled heroines find themselves trapped in the city of the Dead.$3.99

Fallen Angel Vol 3 (Peter David & J.K. Woodward + Kristian Donaldson; tpb) A time of great turmoil has befallen the city of Bete Noir. The notorious drug dealer Asia Minor stands trial before Magistrate Jude, and the Fallen Angel comes face to face with her predecessor. Collects #11-16 of the IDW series.148pg $19.99

Metal Gear Solid: Sons Of Liberty 11 (Alex Garner & Rufus Dayglo + Ashley Wood) Snake and Raiden are forced into a hopeless battle against Solidus's army of Metal Gear Rays. $3.99

ONE SHOT **Nightfall** (Mark Haynes + J.C. Vaughn & Jean Diaz; tpb) Catch up with future CTU agent Jack Bauer as he heads an elite Special Forces team sent to take down the mass murderer, Victor Drazen. 120pg $19.99

Star Trek: Year Four 2 (David Tischman & Steve Conley) During a routine visit by the U.S.S. Enterprise to Aarak 3, a major supplier of dilithium to the Federation, an attack on the royal palace reveals a group of zealots who resent the Federation's intrusion and desire a return to "the pure ways" of the ancestors. $3.99

Star Trek: Klingons: Blood Will Tell 5 (various) The Klingon Empire is in desperate need of assistance, but will they be willing to ask for it? Kahnrah has chosen how to cast his vote in the High Council – the question is, will he survive long enough to do so? $3.99

Scarface: Devil In Disguise 2 (Joshua Jabcuga & Alberto Dose) Battle lines are drawn near the Bay of Pigs, as a teenaged Tony Montana learns that loyalty can be as fickle as an itchy trigger finger. $3.99

Spike: Shadow Puppets 3 (Brian Lynch & Franco Urru) Smile Time has turned Spike into a puppet. But if they think that's gonna stop him, they don't know Spike. Half as tall. Twice as mad. Five times as adorable. $3.99

Tank Girl: The Gifting 4 (Alan C. Martin & Rufus Dayglo + Ashley Wood) What was Booga's Uncle Smiffy's big secret? Who is Cake? Does Booga really cut Barney in half? $3.99

NEW **The Transformers: Beast Wars: The Ascending** 1 (Simon Furman & Don Figueroa) Magmatron – now a disembodied entity, existing out of time and space – is witness to Cybertron's unchecked descent into chaos and madness. $3.99

NEW **The Transformers: Beast Wars: Sourcebook** 1 (Simon Furman + Ben Yee & various) An all-encompassing, unifying resource book highlighting the characters, worlds and technology from all generations and incarnations of Beast Wars. 48pg $6.99

The Transformers Magazine #2 (various) Continuing with three tales that span The Transformers' 20-plus year reign 72pg $7.99

ONE SHOT **The Transformers Spotlight: Optimus Prime** (Simon Furman & Don Figueroa) The spotlight falls on Optimus Prime, the towering figurehead of the entire Transformers race. $3.99

The Transformers: Megatron Origin 3 (Eric Holmes & Alex Milne) Celebration. Intrigue. Assassination. The hardcore, the outlaw elite – the insurgent Decepticons go public, rebelling with a sudden and unstoppable fury. $3.99

The Transformers/New Avengers 2 (Ben Templesmith) 1941. Hitler's Operation: Silver Fox has failed, but the war on the Eastern Front drags on as the Russian winter starts to bite. $3.99

Image Comics

24seven Vol 2 (various) A who's who of today's best writers and artists from comics, film and animation, telling tales of robots in the city that never sleeps. 200pg $19.99

The Amory Wars 3 (of 5; Claudio Sanchez & M.S. Miller) Coheed and Cambria have been captured and ride a spaceship bound for Paris: Earth. At the house. Claudio discovers Josephine's dead body, the vicious Priest that killed her – and some amazing new powers – as his own fight for survival begins. $2.99

ONE SHOT **The Art of Greg Capullo** (Greg Capullo) *See Close-Up on facing page.*

NEW **Bomb Queen IV** #1 (of 4; Jimmie Robinson) The nuclear aftermath from the Queen's last adventure put the country on high alert and forced government sanctions on her dictatorship. However, unknown to the Queen, there's a deeper, more evil plot forming right under her feet. .. $3.50

NEW **Bonds** 1 (of 3; Durwin Talon & Durwin Talon) Faith Warner is an up and coming cellist leading a seemingly perfect life until the night she loses her father to an assassin's bullet. So when Faith discovers she has the opportunity to use long dormant magical abilities to exact her revenge, she takes it.$3.99

NEW **Brit** 1 (Bruce Brown & Cliff Rathburn) Brit is a one-man, unstoppable killing machine... and eligible for a senior citizen's discount. He's been this country's last line of defense for almost a century -- but after he inadvertently caused the death of his ex-wife and her son, he quit. Now something has drawn him out of retirement. $2.99

Casanova 8 (Matt Fraction & Fabio Moon) What terrible truth lurks inside of Dokkktor Klockhammer's horror hospital? How much time passes on page 11? Who's the stone-cold fox behind the stick of that sick assault aircraft from the future? 24pg $1.99

NEW **Compass** 1 (C.B. Cebulski + Akihide Yanagi & Ryusuke Hamamoto) In the world where Magic rules, the last four clans of witches meet on the summer solstice for the Rite of Ascendency ceremony. $2.99

ONE SHOT **Crimeland** (Felipe Ferreira + Ivan Brandon & Rafael Albuquerque) *See Close-Up, right.*

ONE SHOT **Dark Sector Zero** (David Wohl & Bill Sienkiewicz) Enter the world of Hayden Tenno, a black ops agent sent on a dangerous assassination mission into Lasria, an Eastern European city that hides a deadly Cold War secret. $2.99

ONE SHOT **The Darkness Levels** (Paul Jenkins + David Wohl & various; tpb) Based on the Darkness video game this trade paperback captures the intensity and horror of the game while expanding The Darkness Universe for both players of the game and readers of the comic. 176pg $14.99

Dust 2 (of 2; Mink + Paolo Parente & Parente) With the Axis poised to launch a manned orbiting space probe to end WWII once and for all, the Sino-soviets lead a sabotage mission to Reicher Castle to stop the rocket. $3.99

Dynamo 5 #6 (Jay Faerber & Mahmud A. Asrar + Ron Riley) Chrysalis and her offspring have got Maddie backed into a corner as they reveal even more secrets about Captain Dynamo, which leads Maddie to take desperate measures. $3.50

NEW **Elephantmen: War Toys** 1 (of 3; Richard Starkings & Moritat) Africa and China are at war. The battlefield: Europe. Enter: MAPPO's genetically engineered soldiers, The Elephantmen. At last, Starkings & Moritat tell the story of the war to end all wars in this special three-issue miniseries. 40pg b&w $2.99

First Born 2 (of 3; Ron Marz) First Born goes into overdrive as the delicate truce between the forces of Dark and Light breaks down and Sara Pezzini and Patrick Gleason are caught in the middle! $2.99

Frank Frazetta's Death Dealer 5 (of 6; Joshua Ortega & Nat Jones + Jay Fotos) Rian Atar finally reaches the castle of King Strom – only to find a most terrible surprise waiting for him and his men! $3.99

NEW **Glister** 1 (Andi Watson) The adventures of Glister, a girl who's a magnet for the weird and unusual. Ghost writers back from the dead, upset houses who can change appearance, a Toll Troll in the wishing well, unscrupulous antiquarian ex-wrestlers, and a misplaced Sphinx are just some the oddities she encounters. 64pg b&w $5.99

Gutsville 4 (of 6; Simon Spurrier & Frazer Irving) Albert finds himself tangled amongst the Vittals: a cadre of idealistic revolutionaries. Will he finally discover the peace he craves, or merely trade one violent life for another? $3.99

Hiding In Time 2 (of 4; Christopher E. Long & Ryan Winn) With every passing moment Abraham Smith remains in 1774, he comes closer to having to fight three assassins from the future! Outgunned, outmanned, and out of time, Abraham must decide whether to abandon his new life and family… and live to fight another day. .. $3.50

ONE SHOT **In Her Darkest Hour** (Fernanda Chiella & Fernanda Chiella) Lisa is a young girl on the brink of suicide. Living alone in a town with no family and no friends, she has fallen into despair. Can her newfound friend Joshua convince her that life is worth living, or will she fall to the embrace of death in her darkest hour? Mature readers. b&w .. $3.50

Invincible 46 (Robert Kirkman & Ryan Ottley + Bill Crabtree) Invincible and Rex Splode haven't always seen eye-to-eye but when Dupli-Kate's twin brother Multi-Paul comes to town, more than a little angry about his sister's death, the two of them find a little common ground on which to relate common ground called kicking ass! $2.99

NEW **Killing Girl** 1 (of 5; Glen Brunswick & Frank Espinosa) When a routine hit goes sour, Sara makes a shocking discovery: Suppressed memories, haunting her since childhood, are in fact true! And her real family, presumed dead, may actually still be alive. $2.99

ONE SHOT **Madman** Vol 1 (Mike Allred) This first volume of Allred's seminal work, collecting the first Madman series, Madman Adventures, and some extra goodies. 300pg $24.99

Noble Causes Vol 7 *(Powerless;* Jay Faerber & Jon Bosco) Race Noble has lost his powers, and he's convinced his life is over. But his wife Liz has never had any superpowers, and she tries to convince him that there's more to life than being a superhero. 184pg $15.99

PvP 37 (Scott Kurtz) After a hard day's night, curl up with a copy of PvP and take a magical mystery tour of hilarity. It will please, please you. It says here. 24pg b&w $3.50

NEW **Px!** Book 1 *(A Girl And Her Panda;* Manny Trembley + Eric A. Anderson & Trembley) PX! is the story of a young girl named Dahlia who with the help of her giant and trusty Panda sidekick - sets off on an epic journey around the globe to save her missing father. 168pg $16.99

Repo 3 (of 5; Rick Spears & Rob G) KD and Emil have got the clone, and everyone in the sprawl is after them! The Boss man puts the dangerous Chinese repo brothers Ming and Ling on the case, Killian dispatches his well-armed private mercenary security force and the Clone Liberation Army is fired up and in hot pursuit. But it's Lola who comes up ahead as the chase blasts off Earth - final destination: the moon! $3.50

The Ride: Die Valkyrie! 3 (of 3; Doug Wagner) All roads merge when the Valkyries meet Laci and the nuns, with the bad guys hot on their tails and taking no prisoners! As the bodies pile up, the true Laci is unleashed. b&w $2.99

Rising Stars Vol 5 *(Untouchable Visitations;* J. Michael Straczynski + Fiona Avery& various) This volume collects Untouchable #1-6 and the Visitations collection, which includes Rising Stars Prelude, issues #0, #1/2 and *A Lost Tale of the Specials*. 208pg $16.99

NEW **Sorrow** 1 (of 4, Rick Remender + Seth Peck & Francesco Francavilla) In 1952, the U.S. Government's nuclear testing killed all of the good people of Sorrow, Nevada. Today, the sign in front of town reads "population zero". The locals, however, will tell you a very different story. b&w $2.99

Spawn Vol 4 (various) Spawn, the archetypal anti-hero, features in pivotal confrontations with many classic villains. Collects Spawn #55-75. 480pg $29.95

Spawn 173 (David Hine & Brian Haberlin) Al Simmons becomes a cold-blooded killer, while his brothers follow their own paths: one to become a man of justice, the other descending into drug addiction and mental breakdown.$2.95

Spawn: Godslayer 4 (Brian Holguin & Philip Tan) It's a furious battle to the death between the Godslayer and the cannibal God, Urshrek. But Bairn soon discovers there may be more at stake in the outcome than he had bargained for. $2.99

NEW **Special Forces** 1 (of 6; Kyle Baker) Follows a small-town autistic teen from his recruitment, through basic training, and then off to war in Iraq. Inspired by a true 2006 incident in which an 18-year-old autistic Oregon boy was recruited into the army. $2.99

NEW **Steve Niles' Strange Cases** 1 (Steve Niles + Dan Wickline & David Hartman) The greatest monster hunters in the world are called to Holcomb Manor to hear an offer they may not live long enough to refuse. $2.99

CLOSE-UP

Crimeland

Drug dealing, underground deathmatch fights and prostitution are everyday fare for La Rambla, but when Squallo, the top of the criminal food chain is assassinated, a long-standing truce between rival gangs is broken and life is about to get worse. Revenge, corruption and power rain down on the city when the three heirs to the crime-throne go to war on the street of the city.

Felipe Ferreira + Ivan Brandon & Rafael Albuquerque | Image Comics · 96pg $9.99

Strange Embrace 4 (of 8; David Hine) The death of his father only seems to make Anthony Corbeau's strange obsessions more extreme, and Sarah starts to learn more about the sinister family secret concerning Anthony's mother. $2.99

ONE SHOT **Stray Toasters** (Bill Sienkiewicz) Locked up for a crime he didn't commit, burnt out detective Egon Rustemagick is released from a high security mental institution in order to catch a serial-killing monster who is murdering and mutilating housewives and young children. Mature. 224pg ... $24.99

ONE SHOT **The Surreal Adventures of Edgar Allan Poo** (Dwight L. Macpherson & Thomas Boatwright; gn) Edgar Allan Poe just lost everything. His dead wife is haunting him in his dreams, his latest book has bombed, and his imagination has become a curse. His prayer to never dream again is answered one evening as he falls asleep in an outhouse. His discarded creativity takes the form of his dream child, Edgar Allan Poo, who must now undergo a strange odyssey through the poet's troubled mind. 96pg $9.99

ONE SHOT **Tech Jacket** Vol 1 *(The Boy From Earth;* Robert Kirkman & E.J. Su) Zack Thompson, through an event of sheer chance, has come to possess a Tech Jacket. Now it appears that the fate of the entire universe rests on his shoulders as he learns that with infinite power comes infinite responsibility 144pg $14.99

Witchblade 111 (Ron Marz & Steve Sadowski + Kevin Nowlan) Patience, the current Magdalena is suddenly drawn into the events of First Born as Sara Pezzini and new Witchblade bearer Dani Baptiste struggle to survive the battle. $2.99

Witchblade Takeru Manga 7 (Yasuko Kobayashi & Kazasa Sumita) Takeru, the wielder of the demon blade, and the demon Kira fight to determine the fate of her love. $3.99

Markosia

Heretic: The Templar Chronicles 4 (of 6; Joe Nassise + Chuck Satterlee & Bruce McCorkindale + Rick Hiltbrunner) The enemy is revealed! Cade now knows he is seeking a cadre of necromancers. This group will stop at nothing in order to steal a sacred Christian artifact.$3.50

ONE SHOT **Of Bitter Souls V2: Reunification** (Chuck Satterlee & Norm Breyfogle) After learning Pastor Secord's secret...and the true purpose of their mission, the team disbanded. Flash forward one year. The team has gone off in their own directions...some for the better and some for the worse. 80pg $9 95

NEW **The Witness** 1 (Brian Augustyn & Seth Frail) The cities at the edges of the American Mid-West corn-belt are plagued by crime, drugs and danger. The low profile that part of the country enjoys gives criminals like Max Quantrill free reign to build a huge illicit empire in Crystal City. Now the city is protected by an unknown hero who sees everything and acts swiftly; call him...The Witness. $3.50

Markosia

NEW **Clash** 1 (of 5; Greg Karras & Cory Hamscher + various) Earth's greatest heroes defeat vicious, alien invaders, nearly destroying the planet. Soon after, a new society emerges-one governed by superhumans. $4.50

The Phantom 19 (Mike Bullock & Silvestre Szilagyi + Bob Pedroza) Torn from today's headlines, the electrifying conclusion to The Phantom's one-man war against the army of Him is now! $4.50

NBM

ONE SHOT **Angel Skin** (Christian Westerlund & Robert Nazeby Herzig) In a moment of bleak despair, Joshua Barker decides to take his own life, ending it with a bullet through his head. But nothing ends in Death. Instead, he wakes up in a dead city that seems to consist of decayed factories and crumbled apartment buildings and very little else. 80pg $11.95

ONE SHOT **Dinosaurs Across America** (Phil Yeh) A beautiful exciting educational graphic novel, a fun way to learn about America's 50 States. $12.95

Oni Press

ONE SHOT **Black Metal** Volume 1 (Rick Spears & Chuck BB) Twin brothers, Shawn and Sam, aren't typical kids – their grim dedication to metal isn't that unusual but their mysterious parentage sure is! Mature readers. 160pg b&w$11.95

ONE SHOT **Have You Seen the Horizon Lately?** (Jamie S. Rich) *See Close-Up, below*

NEW **Jumper: Jumpscars** 1 (of 4; Nunzio DeFilippis + Christina Weir & Brian Hurtt) For centuries Jumpers have lived among us special individuals with the ability to teleport or jump nearly anywhere in the world. For almost as long, the Paladins, a secret and powerful order, have protected us from these dangerous and unpredictable individuals, sacrificing everything to keep humanity safe! Mature. 24pg $3.99

Local 11 (Brian Wood & Ryan Kelly) Focuses on a young art student trying to manipulate the scene as best she can, who sees a source of material too good to pass up: Megan McKeenan. Mature readers. b&w $2.99

Scott Pilgrim Vol 4 (*Scott Pilgrim Gets it Together;* Bryan Lee O'Malley) Scott's still dating the lovely Ramona and dealing with the gaggle of superpowered, superstylish, superevil ex-boyfriends determined to take him down. 200pg $11.95

Wasteland 11 (Antony Johnston & Chris Mitten) Michael and Abi have been charged with conspiring against the Lord Founder Marcus...and the penalty is death! b&w $3.50

Tokyopop

Battle Vixens Vol 12 (various) Sonsaku Hakufu returns with a vengeance. She takes her rightful place as head of Nanyo Academy. To draw out her natural powers, Hakufu pays Chouko a visit on top of up a mountain. 176pg $9.99

Beyond the Beyond Vol 4 (various) One day Kiara hears her master's voice telling her he's trapped somewhere in Jipusamu, the White Country. He also tells Kiara to look for the bird. 192pg$9.99

Bizenghast Vol 3 (various) With two of the four Tower Guards to aid them, Dinah and Vincent are halfway to freedom from their nightly tasks. 192pg $9.99

Blade Of Heaven Vol 10 (various) In this next volume of Blade of Heaven, as the start of the Hero Competition, the underhanded, devious plot of the Demon Majeh is been put into effect! 296pg $9 99

Blame! Vol 9 (various) In the aftermath of an apocalyptic battle, Killy is on the brink of death. Cibo fusion with the Level 9 Safeguard unit has reduced her once-impressive intellect to that of a child. Can a now child-like Cibo find Killy while avoiding the merciless Silicon Creatures? 192pg $9.99

NEW **Bombos vs Everything** Vol 1 (various) To get to the most totally awesome city of Bokonon, a select few prospects must face the ultimate challenge – surviving an epic showdown with the mysterious Qualifiers. 192pg $9.99

Boys Be... Vol 14 (various) The boys are back and there is gonna be trouble. Girls are bad, boys are worse. Episodes of boys lost in a world of virginity, vagina and monologues. 208pg $9.99

Chibi Vampire Vol 5 (various) Karin continues to come to terms with her feelings for Kenta, but her flirting will have to be put on hold for now. Karin's grandmother is in town, and that's enough to put her entire family into a panic. 176pg $9.99

CLAMP No Kiseki Vol 7 (various) This volume features an in-depth look at Chobits, Wish and Suki. Bonus chess pieces include: Chi(Chobits), Mokona-Modoki, Akira Ijyuin(Man of Many Faces). $19.99

Dragon Knights Vol 25 (various) Using Zoma's body, which had become a bird, as a vessel, Rath finally awakens! Yusurugi is already spreading his wretched smoke across the plains, meaning that the end of the world is near. 208pg $9.99

Fruits Basket Vol 17 (various) Akito has more than skeletons hiding in the closet. The curse is not the only reason Kureno won't leave Akito. 224pg $9.99

Genju No Seiza Vol 4 (various) After a string of animal murders are discovered throughout town, Fuuto and his guardians vow to bring the killer to justice. 208pg $9.99

Grenadier Vol 4 (various) Rushuna and company finally can take a break after scaling Mount Nabanba. Even in times of peace, Rushuna cannot get a quick minute to think. Mikan sneakingly wanders off to eat a rice ball, but falls into a trap of three shadowy figures. 192pg $9.99

NEW **Heaven!!** Vol 1 (various) Rinne is a girl who not only can see ghosts, she can exorcise them – with a paper fan! When she's saved from becoming a ghost by the school punk, he ends up in a coma. 200pg $9.99

Initial D Vol 27 (various) When an oil slick leaves K.T. with a compromised car that can't be fixed in time to race, he loses his cool and wonders if he'll ever be able to get back on track. 216pg $9.99

Kamiyadori (various) Vol 3 Fighting the Kamiyadori can sometimes create strange partnerships...but none as bizarre as Jillald, Vivi and the other Right Arms agents partnering with Clevort, a convicted mass murderer. 224pg $9.99

Little Queen Vol 3 (various) The queen candidates and Sejuru go to the Queen of Light's palace for the festivities. Although everyone feels that Lucia is a sure thing to become the queen, they cannot ignore the fact that there is something about June that makes them unable to discount her... 184pg$9.99

Loveless Vol 6 (various) The secret behind Seimei's disappearance and apparent death begins to be unveiled...and the consequences are devastating to both Ritsuka and Soubi. 200pg $9.99

NEW **Missing Kamikakushi No Monogatari** Vol 1 (various) Mystery Kyoichi Utsume, a.k.a. "His Majesty, Lord of Darkness," is a dark and compelling mystery – so much so that his fellow Literature Club members would rather discuss him than books! 176pg $9.99

Mitsukazu Mihara: The Embalmer Vol 4 (various) Mitsukazu Mihara's profoundly moving look at life and death returns as Shinjyurou encounters desperate souls in his journey to uncover what it truly means to be alive... 192pg $9.99

Mugen Spiral Vol 2 (various) Unable to control his powers, Ouga's Darkness begins to consume him. Yayoi can save Ouga, but she is quickly falling ill. Furthermore, Hakuyo is dead set on killing Yayoi, and Ura is the only thing standing in his way. 192pg .. $9.99

My Cat Loki Vol 2 (various) It's a warm and sunny day when Ameya makes his way to his favourite café and fate rears its strange and beautiful head. When a young woman named Luci literally stumbles into Ameya's life, will the encounter lead to something more? 192pg $9.99

Nosatsu Junkie Vol 3 (various) Umi and Naka are invited to the grand opening gala for the first Knocks retail store. At the party, Naka spills her drink on the infamous Hideto Suzuki, the Knocks designer himself! 208pg $9.99

NEW **Peace Maker** Vol 1 (various) When childhood innocence gives way to a blinding thirst for revenge, is it worth the price of one's humanity? .. $9 99

NEW **Pick of the Litter** Vol 1 (various) Riku Fukagawa was found at the age of ten with no memory and no relatives. Despite this, he manages to make a good life for himself, until five years later, when he runs into his real family at a flea market. 184pg $9.99

The Queen's Knight Vol 9 (various) As the veil of Queen Freyja's curse upon Phantasma is slowly lifted, hren discovers that all he believed to be true regarding the eternal spring may have been fabricated and that the truth may have painful implications for Yuna. 184pg $9.99

Saver Vol 4 (various) The cave is crashing in, and Lena, Cid, Sean, the merchants and The Great One are all trapped inside but with the leadership of Lena's male alter-ego, Ley, they may have a chance to escape. 192pg $9.99

Scrapped Princess Vol 4 (various) As Shannon and his siblings are about to take out a gang of bandits, they are joined by Leo, a curious young man who is obsessed with justice. 256pg $7.99

NEW **Stand By Youth** Vol 1 (various) When Hyungmo Yang fails his college entrance exams, he's got no choice but to enroll in an exam school. But when his family's tight on money, his classmates are unruly punks, and his best friend is the king of porn, passing the next exam will be anything but a walk in the park. 216pg $9.99

NEW **St Lunatic High School** Vol 1 (various) Forced to enter the prestigious St Lunatic School, Niko Kanzaki discovers the haunting secret of the school in her demon filled night-classes! 184pg $9.99

tactics Vol 2 (various) The ghost-busting adventures continue as Haruka's uncertainty about his past grows – and he still doesn't recall anything about the time before he was sealed... 200pg $9.99

Threads of Time Vol 10 (various) Once again in the command of men, civilian militiamen as they are, Moon-Bin demonstrates deft leadership in driving away Mongol soldiers. 192pg $9.99

NEW **Trinity Blood – Reborn on the Mars** Vol 1 (various) A mysterious terrorist organisation is hell-bent on orchestrating a war between the New Human Empire and the Vatican. 200pg $7.99

NEW **Undertown** Vol 1 (various) Meet Sama, a 10-year-old boy who is so sad that tears have literally stained his cheeks. 208pg $9.99

NEW **We Shadows** Vol 1 (various) Modern, edgy retelling of The Ugly Duckling story peppered with bits of Arthurian legend and A Midsummer Night's Dream. 192pg $9.99

TwoMorrows

Alter Ego 71 (ed Roy Thomas) A milestone 1970s book by Michael Hirsh & Patrick Loubert on Canada's 1940s Golden Age. 100pg $6.95

Jack Kirby Collector 49 (ed John Morrow) Spotlighting Kirby's Warriors, such as Thor, Sgt. Fury, Challengers of the Unknown, the Losers, and others! 84pg $9.95

Modern Masters Vol 13 *(Jerry Ordway;* Eric Nolen-Weathington) Ordway's life and career are spotlighted, as he discusses the work that's made him a fan-favourite, complete with an extensive art gallery. 120pg $14.95

CLOSE-UP

Have You Seen the Horizon Lately?

World-famous author Percival Mendelssohn and his wife Iris were the toast of literary society until her suicide. Convinced that there was no love left in the modern world, Percival decided he would abandon it. A decade later, can Julia Jimenez prove to him that his safe and precious life, tucked away with his books, can't protect him from the realities he's denying?

Jamie S. Rich | Oni Press | 272pg | $19.95

MEGA CITY COMICS

THE UK'S LEADING COMIC SUPERSTORE

UNBEATABLE SELECTION OF COMICS, GRAPHIC NOVELS, MANGA & POP CULTURE

FAST ONLINE SHOPPING 24/7:

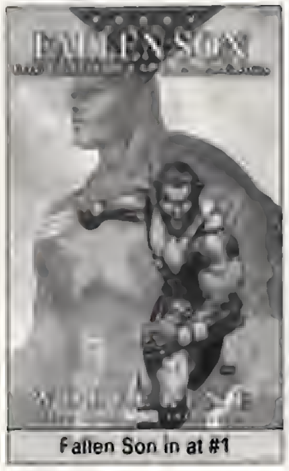
MEGACITYCOMICS.CO.UK

18 INVERNESS STREET
CAMDEN TOWN, LONDON NW1 7HJ
(1 MINUTE FROM CAMDEN TOWN UNDERGROUND – ACROSS THE ROAD FROM THE ELECTRIC BALLROOM)

TEL: 020 7485 9320 e-mail: shop@megacitycomics.co.uk
SHOP OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK—Mon-Wed, Sat, Sun 10am-6pm Thu, Fri 10am-7pm.

Comics Economics

Top 100 US comics sales for April 2007



Fallen Son in at #1

Rank	Prev	Title, Issue, Price & Estimated Direct Market Orders	Publisher
1	(N)	Fallen Son Death of Captain America – Wolverine $2.99 (157,291)	Marvel
2	(6)	Justice League of America 7 $3.50 (154,984)	DC Comics
3	(N)	Fallen Son Death of Captain America – Avengers $2.99 (140,783)	Marvel
4	(5)	Dark Tower Gunslinger Born 3 $3.99 (132,481)	Marvel
5	(2)	Justice League of America 8 $2.99 (130,365)	DC Comics
6	(N)	Avengers Initiative 1 $2.99 (127,798)	Marvel
7	(=)	New Avengers 29 $2.99 (125,378)	Marvel
8	(2)	Mighty Avengers 2 $2.99 (121,365)	Marvel
9	(10)	Wolverine 53 $2.99 (98,441)	Marvel
10	(15)	Justice Society of America 5 $2.99 (98,069)	DC Comics

Justice League in at #2

11	(13)	52 Week 50 $2.50 (97,073)	DC Comics
12	(9)	Buffy The Vampire Slayer 2 $2.99 (96,439)	Dark Horse
13	(N)	World War III Part One Call To Arms $2.50 (95,452)	DC Comics
14	(13)	World War III Part Two Valiant $2.50 (95,199)	DC Comics
15	(17)	World War III Part Four United We Stand $2.50 (95,171)	DC Comics
16	(11)	52 Week 51 $2.50 (94,934)	DC Comics
17	(14)	World War III Part Three Hell is For Heroes $2.50 (94,788)	DC Comics
18	(14)	52 Week 48 $2.50 (94,715)	DC Comics
19	(18)	52 Week 49 $2.50 (94,661)	DC Comics
20	(7)	Justice 11 $3.50 (94,000)	DC Comics
21	(15)	All Star Superman 7 $2.99 (92,295)	DC Comics
22	(18)	Uncanny X-Men 485 $2.99 (81,764)	Marvel
23	(22)	X-Men 198 $2.99 (74,841)	Marvel
24	(19)	Superman Batman 33 $2.99 (74,807)	DC Comics
25	(24)	Fantastic Four 545 $2.99 (74,700)	Marvel
26	(25)	Ultimate Spider-Man 109 $2.99 (72,713)	Marvel
27	(24)	Superman Batman 34 $2.99 (71,278)	DC Comics
28	(23)	Wolverine Origins 13 $2.99 (70,963)	Marvel

■ International direct market retail orders estimated below 70,000

29	(21)	Marvel Zombies Army of Darkness 2 $2.99 (69,432)	Marvel/Dynamite
30	(20)	Moon Knight 9 $2.99 (69,134)	Marvel
31	(33)	Thunderbolts 113 $2.99 (66,092)	Marvel
32	(31)	Ultimate X-Men 81 $2.99 (62,926)	Marvel
33	(27)	Action Comics 848 $2.99 (62,216)	DC Comics
34	(34)	Teen Titans 45 $2.99 (61,051)	DC Comics
35	(30)	Wonder Woman 7 $2.99 (60,168)	DC Comics

■ International direct market retail orders estimated below 60,000

36	(28)	Iron Man 16 $2.99 (59,476)	Marvel
37	(29)	Brave & Bold 2 $2.99 (58,211)	DC Comics
38	(35)	Wonder Woman 8 $2.99 (58,772)	DC Comics
39	(N)	Omega Flight 1 $2.99 (58,153)	Marvel
40	(38)	Sensational Spider-Man 37 $2.99 (57,528)	Marvel
41	(39)	Detective Comics 831 $2.99 (56,284)	DC Comics
42	(48)	Runaways 25 $2.99 (56,250)	Marvel
43	(37)	Superman 661 $2.99 (55,738)	DC Comics
44	(N)	Amazons Attack 1 $2.99 (55,442)	DC Comics
45	(-)	Punisher War Journal 6 $2.99 (53,488)	Marvel
46	(49)	Incredible Hulk 105 $2.99 (53,256)	Marvel
47	(42)	Supergirl 15 $2.99 (51,841)	DC Comics
48	(43)	Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man 19 $2.99 (50,307)	Marvel

■ International direct market retail orders estimated below 50,000

49	(51)	Flash Fastest Man Alive 11 $2.99 (46,963)	DC Comics
50	(N)	Painkiller Jane 0 $0.25 (46,248)	Dynamite
51	(50)	Daredevil 96 $2.99 (46,198)	Marvel
52	(45)	Ghost Rider 10 $2.99 (43,966)	Marvel
53	(N)	Nova 1 $2.99 (42,917)	Marvel
54	(53)	Ms Marvel 14 $2.99 (42,817)	Marvel
55	(52)	X-23 Target X 5 $2.99 (41,707)	Marvel

■ International direct market retail orders estimated below 40,000

56	(58)	New X-Men 37 $2.99 (37,505)	Marvel
57	(-)	X-Factor 18 $2.99 (37,381)	Marvel
58	(54)	Ghost Rider Trail of Tears 2 $2.99 (37,271)	Marvel
59	(53)	Immortal Iron Fist 4 $2.99 (37,159)	Marvel
60	(56)	Batman Confidential 5 $2.99 (36,219)	DC Comics
61	(60)	Silent War 4 $2.99 (36,162)	Marvel
62	(67)	Nightwing Annual 2 $3.99 (35,346)	DC Comics
63	(N)	Annihilation Heralds of Galactus Silver Surfer Firelord $3.99 (35,319)	Marvel
64	(62)	Green Lantern Corps 11 $2.99 (33,506)	DC Comics
65	(64)	Punisher 46 $2.99 (33,427)	Marvel
66	(61)	Newuniversal 5 $2.99 (33,230)	Marvel
67	(N)	Spider-Man Fantastic Four 1 $2.99 (32,909)	Marvel
68	(55)	Trials of Shazam 6 $2.99 (32,875)	DC Comics
69	(N)	Frank Frazetta's Death Dealer 1 $3.99 (32,350)	Image
70	(71)	Nightwing 131 $2.99 (31,350)	DC Comics
71	(65)	Supergirl & Legion of Super Heroes 28 $2.99 (31,525)	DC Comics
72	(71)	Supergirl & Legion of Super Heroes 29 $2.99 (30,906)	DC Comics
73	(-)	Anita Blake Guilty Pleasures 6 $2.99 (30,799)	Marvel
74	(N)	Outsiders Annual 1 $3.99 (30,742)	DC Comics
75	(-)	Exiles 93 $2.99 (30,681)	Marvel
76	(72)	Green Arrow 73 $2.99 (30,652)	DC Comics
77	(68)	New Excalibur 18 $2.99 (29,817)	Marvel
78	(77)	New Excalibur 19 $2.99 (29,514)	Marvel
79	(76)	Birds of Prey 106 $2.99 (29,329)	DC Comics
80	(72)	She-Hulk 2 17 $2.99 (27,687)	Marvel
81	(77)	Robin 161 $2.99 (27,180)	DC Comics
82	(78)	Cable Deadpool 38 $2.99 (26,110)	Marvel
83	(80)	Fables 60 $2.99 (26,048)	DC Comics
84	(78)	Squadron Supreme Hyperion Vs Nighthawk 4 $2.99 (25,553)	Marvel
85	(83)	Conan 39 $2.99 (25,103)	Dark Horse
86	(N)	Loners 1 $2.99 (24,277)	Marvel
87	(85)	Spirit 6 $2.99 (23,887)	DC Comics
88	(85)	Star Wars Knights of the Old Republic 15 $2.99 (23,560)	Dark Horse
89	(N)	Spider-Man Back in Black Handbook $3.99 (23,516)	Marvel
90	(86)	X-Men First Class 8 $2.99 (23,420)	Marvel
91	(84)	Astro City Dark Age Book Two 3 $2.99 (22,727)	DC Comics
92	(94)	JLA Classified 37 $2.99 (22,350)	DC Comics
93	(87)	JSA Classified 25 $2.99 (22,052)	DC Comics
94	(87)	Walking Dead 37 $2.99 (21,727)	Image
95	(99)	Heroes For Hire 9 $2.99 (21,444)	Marvel
96	(96)	Powers 24 $2.95 (20,960)	Marvel
97	(89)	Shadowpact 12 $2.99 (20,748)	DC Comics
98	(N)	Captain America 25 Epting variant $3.99 (20,721)	Marvel
99	(88)	Red Sonja 21 $2.99 (20,690)	Dynamite
100	(73)	Spider-Man Family 2 $4.99 (20,579)	Marvel

[illegible] and ICv2.com

The Comic Guru

...has one of the coolest ranges of limited edition comics!

Check out our website for more cool titles!

World War Hulk:
X-MEN

WORLD WAR
HULK
WORLD BREAKER

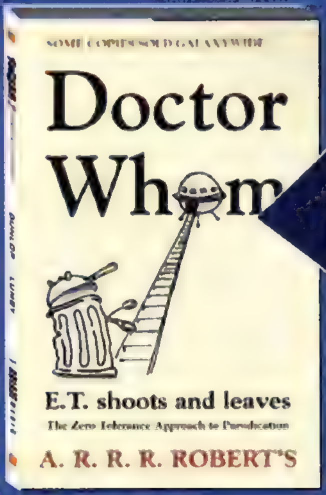
THE NEW
AVENGERS
Annual

NEW AVENGERS
CIVIL WAR

WORLD WAR HULK:
Diamond "Retailer Only" Incentive ...£99.99
X-Men, Front Line, Gamma Corps...at cover price!

NEW AVENGERS HARDBACKS:
#3 (Secrets & Lies), #4 (Collective) ...£12.99
#5 (Civil War)...£1.90 + Annual #1 ...£2.60

NEW AVENGERS SPIN-OFFS:
Spider-Man Breakout #1-5 (pack) ...£10.00
Transformers #1, Illuminati #1...£1.90


Doctor Whom
E.T. shoots and leaves
The Zero Tolerance Approach to Parodication
A. R. R. R. ROBERT'S

£8.99 plus post & packing

Two Comic Guru SPECIALS!

Doctor Whom: E.T. shoots & leaves
By A. R. .R R. Roberts and published by Gollancz, this 176 page parody paperback book comes very highly recommended!

Blake's 7 The Liberator
This superb 14" model kit includes 46 resin parts with two transparent half domes to allow for lighting of the engine section. Initial batch of only 20!

£134.99 or fully painted & built £190.99 (prices plus p&p)

www.thecomicguru.co.uk

20-22 Wyndham Arcade, Cardiff, CF10 1FJ Tel: 02920 229119

Letters

CI, PO Box 9844, Colchester CO1 9EE *(letters@comicsinternational.co.uk)*

*Welcome back to **CI**'s lettercol. After the long hiatus following **CI** #200 last October and the change of ownership our letters page kind of got 'lost in the move'. We're pleased to say it has now been found and returned to its rightful place. Fortunately enough letters and online comments have been coming in since **CI** #201 for us to produce the pages you are reading. But we can only make this a regular if you actually write or email us. Sadly, there are an ever-diminishing number of print outlets left for comics opinion, so keep this one thriving by having your say!*

Pete Root, R.I.P.

Frank Plowright via e-mail

JUNE 24 2007 was a sad day in Glasgow with the untimely passing of Pete Root, 59, following illness. Pete was known to several generations of comic fans and creators in the city, firstly as one of the founders of AKA Books and Comics in 1984, and from 1992 as proprietor of his own City Centre Comics back issue business.

Rarely offering unsolicited comment, he was a man of unshakeable and occasion-ally irrational conviction. You might not agree with him, but his opinion was untainted by fashion, pretension, or compromise. When breached, a mask of grouch fractured to present a warm-hearted and considerate nature, and he was extremely highly regarded by all who came to know him. His enjoyment of comics was matched only by his love for Greenock Morton football club, whom he'd followed home and away for over 40 years.

Pete is survived by his wife Doreen, and is immortalised with a block named after him in Judge Dredd's Mega-City One. Should anyone like to make a donation in his memory, his last days were spent at the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice, 67 Carlton Place, Glasgow G5 9TD.

I know that Pete had been suffering for quite a while so his death was no real surprise. Even so, the loss of friend is always a blow although I'm sure its impact on his family and the Glasgow comics scene of which his was a pioneering member was far greater than it was on me. He'll be missed but I'll always remember him as depicted in Frank's photo.

Separated as we were by the length of the country, in the past few years we met only infrequently but our occasional meetings always seemed to revolve around alchohol and cigarettes!

Tragically underrated

Dexter Smithson via e-mail

Great to see **CI** #202 finally out. Fantastic job, as always.

I was particularly pleased to see Pat Mills interviewed on his new **2000 AD** project. I kinda gave up on **2000 AD** some time ago, when it was sold to whatever idiots run it now. However, I have enormous respect for Pat as a writer.

In my opinion he's the best we have and I have always considered him tragically underrated by fans. Apart from all the sensational work he did for **2000 AD**, I have to single out *Charley's War* as the best comics work he's ever done.

Any chance of you spotlighting this series in a future **CI**?

Interesting suggestion, consider it noted.

Artistic correction

David Roach via email

Just a quick note really to say that the *Danger Man* strip in the 1968 **Ranger Annual** (as shown in the latest **CI**) wasn't drawn by Jesus Blasco. It was actually drawn by a real veteran of British comics called Ernest Ratcliff who mostly drew strips for girls titles like **Valentine**, **Picture Romance Library**, **Famous Romance Picture Library** and **Sally**.

By the way, are there any plans to revive the *Q&A* section or any other historically-based sections? If the chance ever came up I'd love to write a column about the old, forgotten or just plain obscure.

Good to see the mag is still out there and looking better than ever.

Well done on spotting #202's deliberate faux pas (and if you'll believe that, you'll believe anything)!

As to Q&A's resurrection, that's down to you guys... you send us the Qs, we'll provide the As.

*But, while I've no problem with restoring Q&A if demand is there, unlike my illustrious predecessor, I'm not convinced **CI** is the right venue for history lessons. It's a news magazine!*

And before those "But what about those TV 'n' comics retro features?" letters come flooding in, let me say that (a) I was against Dez starting 'em but (b) I plan to continue them. Why? Because they're helping to boost sales on the other side of the Pond.

While our US cousins couldn't give a toss for our comics and creators, they are intrigued by that TV-to-comics element. US sales have been moving up since we began the retro covers and I'm not going to buck the trend.

No, Beau, no!

Martin Gray via e-mail

I've not read all the bits I plan to as yet, but #202 looks a nice meaty number. One quick thing, though, before I forget – could you change, or simply remove, the Beau Smith column pic?

At the moment, it hints that the name of the column is Tiny Penis, and it just doesn't make me want to read it. Is the headshot/gunshot meant to be irony?

Bad, bad, bad

Duncan Goodyer via e-mail

Dear Mr.Conroy,

What on earth are you doing with **CI**? You've already made two classic mistakes – first, not coming out with a new issue straight after the takeover – bad, bad, bad. Even worse, you raised the price to the same as a professional glossy mag – which **CI** is definitely not. I thought you were a businessman, but nobody (and I mean nobody) would have done what you did, whatever the lame excuse given.

As it's the only comic mag around, it should be out once a month without fail – I'm amazed somebody hasn't gazzumped you – I would if I had the inclination/cash/knowhow/etc.

I didn't buy it by the way – I would never pay that much cash just for info on the comics industry. Much as I love reading paper rather than a computer, you are in competition, of sorts, with the Internet. I still can't believe someone who's been around for so long can be so naive. Please explain why I am the dummy and you aren't?

You haven't even got a website for Chrissake – I have to send this to sales and I suspect it'll get lost somewhere, which is a pity because I would like an apology for ruining the only comic newszine for us Brits.

I've only got one more thing to say and that's smarten up! Put the mag out regularly – make it £1.50 again – stop trying to make it a glam mag and see it for what it is. If not, sell to somebody who can.

*What's that old saw about not being able to please all the people all the time? I will offer you an apology but only for having a different view from you as to what **CI** should be. You obviously prefer the basic no-frills look of the early issues but that no longer works for most people – as you say the Internet can offer the same service, faster and for free!*

*That's why I've chosen to take a different approach. Basically it can be summed up as: Let the Internet be the daily papers, **CI** will be the Sundays.*

Collect and keep!

Nigel Cantwell via e-mail

I have to say that during the Dez years I always regarded **CI** as a bit like **TV Times**, important to have at the time but something to discard once the next issue came along.

However your first issue was something that I want to keep and collect like **Alter Ego** so IMO you *are* on the right track... once you work to a more regular schedule!

So good...

Steve Hooker via e-mail

A quick congratulations on **CI** #201, Mike!! Not to take anything away from Dez Skinn, but it's the best issue yet and your plans and ideas for **CI**'s future look strong and well thought out.

Even as a reviewer, with my freebies, I'm going to subscribe and that should tell you everything you need to know.

Oh, and even after 30+ years of collecting, **CI** is still firmly at the centre of my reading material.

Unhappy

Martin Gray via e-mail

I used to read **CI** the day I got it, but having flicked through the latest (which I nearly missed buying cos of that abomination of a wrap-around), I've not gone back to it. No editorial explaining the lateness, no lettercol, ancient news ...

Things To Do While Waiting For **CI**: I subscribed to **Comic Buyers Guide** – it has articles, opinion, isn't suddenly obsessing on old TV series... and has a schedule!

Missing movies

Mark Greenspan via e-mail

In **CI** #202 there were nine feature pages devoted to comics movies, not to mention your own *Frame to Frame* column, and only three on Manga. So how come films don't rate a mention on the cover, huh?

*The recent changes to **CI** have caused great discussions among fans online, particularly on the ex-**CI** now Quality forum* http://groups.yahoo.com/group/quality-comms/. *On the following pages we are presenting a selection of messages on the new-look **CI**.*

Covering the covers...

***Jared Myland** of OK Comics posted to the Quality e-group:* Is that a full page ad on the cover of **CI** #202?

Surely it's not encouraging people to read comics on their mobile phone as an alternative to buying comics from my shop!?

I'd have to be a madman to rack these next to my till...

***Lew Stringer** replied:* Sounds a bit paranoid to me. Surely ROK Comics are just another avenue for comics, not a replacement? People don't buy comics indiscriminately. They buy their favourite characters or work of their favourite creators.

They're not going to give up their favourite comics to read some other comics via mobile phone. They'll read both.

If **CI** had cover-featured Andy Capp would you feel they were trying to divert customers from your shop and into newsagents to buy **The Daily Mirror**? ;-)

***Paul Scott** added:* As Lew says, mobile comics aren't going to be a serious threat really, are they? It's something else which may overlap your customer base, but can you really see all your customers not coming as they have some strips on their mobile phones?

If it gets more people reading comics, isn't it possible one day you may get customers through it? Or sell collections originated for Rok Comics and the like?

It's an interesting point though.

***Jared** came back with:* Well, quite a few of my customers have given up reading their favourite comics to read them on the internet.

Maybe it did sound like a paranoid overreaction; I was just a bit angry with **CI**.

I'd heard there were going to be four different covers but we got 54 copies of one and one of another.

That's fine but it was all covered in a wraparound advert. **CI** #202 came out late. So late that even dedicated collecting-it-since-#1 enthusiasts have given up asking for it. Since #200 my sales have dropped from regularly selling 50 copies to selling about 10, probably because of the now permanent price increase and twice a year publishing schedule.

Unfortunately I think the next issue is going to lose even more readers as most of the news in #202 is months out of date, previewing 'upcoming' series that are already two issues in and reviewing comics that have been on the shelves for 4 or 5 months.

It seems a wasted opportunity for Cosmic.

***Simon Russell** of Boing Graphics .co.uk, quoted and replied: "... four different covers but ... all covered in a wraparound advert."* Must make it hard to judge popularity/ value of specific covers.

"... even the dedicated... have given up asking for it. Since #200 my sales have dropped... Probably because of the now permanent price increase." Certainly makes it less of a draw to me.

"...most of the news in #202 is months out of date, ...It seems like a wasted opportunity for Cosmic." It *is* an odd way of taking over a successful magazine – I hope Mike Conroy and backers haven't flushed their cash down the toilet, but I think they'll need to make some major efforts/improvements to avoid losing their audience...

***Lew Stringer** responded to Jared's earlier comment of "quite a few of my customers have given up reading their favourite comics to read them on the internet" with :* Presumably Marvel and DC are your biggest sellers? Most Marvel and DC comics are not available legally on the net, are they? So surely these are the same sort of people who'd rather buy a pirate DVD than a legit one? There's little any retailer can do to attract people who don't care about copyright infringement.

*"Maybe it did sound like a paranoid overreaction... **CI** #202 came out late..."* In other words your anger towards **CI** is more to do with the lateness of the mag than the mobile phone ad? ;-)

In fairness to you, I too thought the wraparound advert completely destroyed the point of four alternative covers. It would have been far better to have it as a four page pull-out supplement in the centre, I'd have thought.

***Ade Brown** replied:* I completely forgot the variant covers, and by chance got the *Danger Man* one that I wanted. Actually I thought that cover was too busy. I like the slight changes in content, but the over-riding problems are lateness and out of date news. And a couple of adverts that must have their purchasers looking for a refund.

Mobile phone comics? Might work for me if I can get nine phones in a 3x3 grid... but seriously, a different kettle of fish and no more likely to replace proper comics (in the near future) than Ryvita replacing sliced bread.

***Kev F Sutherland** added:* I liked the Rok ad cover. It made me say, "Ooh, that's different!"

Looking at what might make **CI** a must-have mag again is hard to say. If I look at the mags I read regularly, I used to get **Q** and **Empire** every month and the **NME** and **2000 AD** every week without fail, then somehow that link got broken and I get them sporadically (**2000 AD** hardly ever, I'm afraid). But that was me growing old, not them changing.

Er, I realise I've just failed to add to the debate, I was just thinking out loud. Can anyone use the example of "must-buy" mags they get to see how that model might apply to **CI**?

On lateness...

***Lew Stringer** posted:* Lateness, not just with **CI**, is a big deal. It has a negative effect on quite a few semi-regular titles at the moment. I'm really disappointed with **CI** at the moment because I love it so much and think it's a very important magazine. I'm hoping it can be brought back from the brink.

I don't know what's caused the lateness with **CI**, but in regards to mainstream US comics the delays seem to come down to the "superstar" creators they use.

US comics appear to have created a rod for their own back; by aiming comics at a fan ghetto, they have to pander to using "hot" creators, but those creators can often be unreliable.

Things seemed much simpler when comics were aimed at the general public...

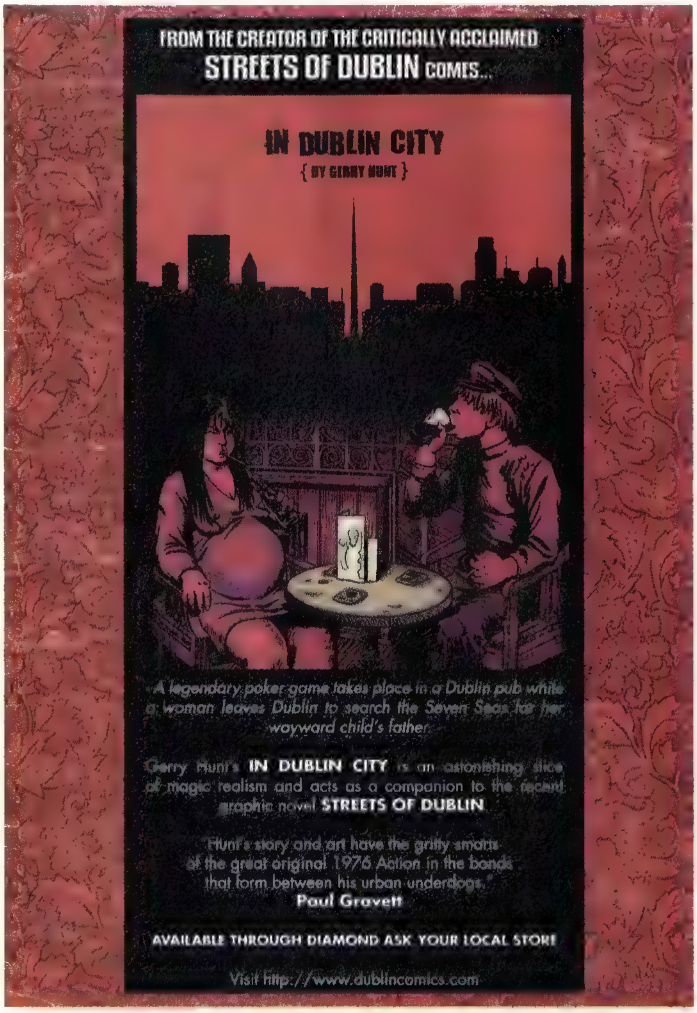
On target audiences...

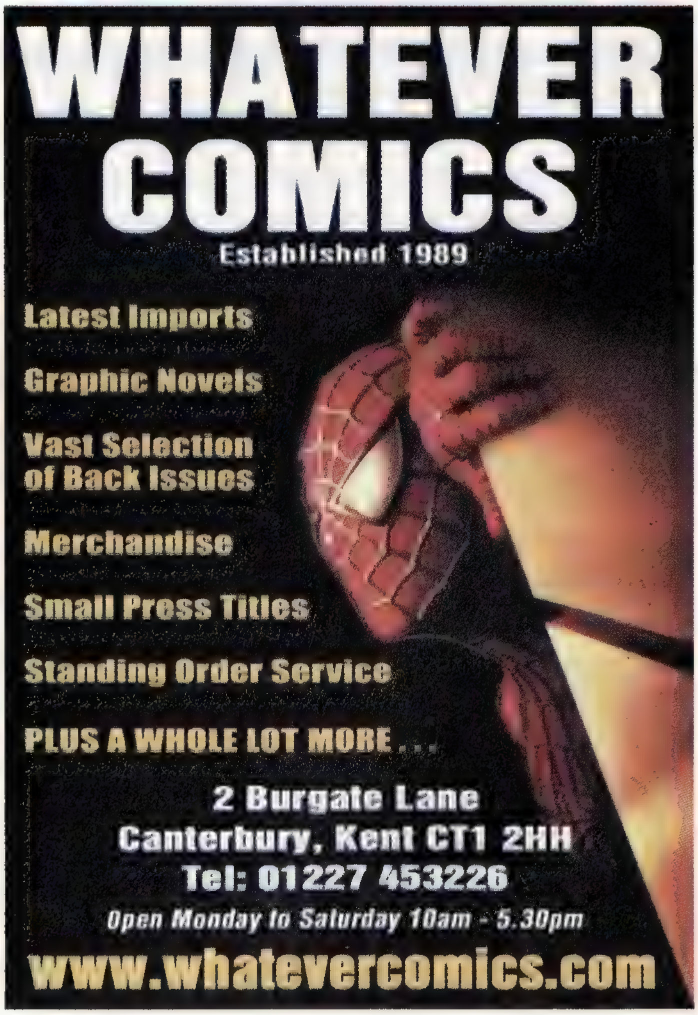
*OK Comics' **Jared Myland** posted:* James Hodgkins raised a good point on another thread. Just who is **CI**'s target audience?

I don't know who it's intended for and I sell the blinkin' thing.

***Rob Nott** replied:* I'd hazard a guess its target audience is probably people who read comics? :)

***Jared Myland** came back with:* In my experience, everybody reads comics. People from every walk of life, every age group, every type of social background, male and


FROM THE CREATOR OF THE CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED
STREETS OF DUBLIN COMES...
IN DUBLIN CITY
{ BY GERRY HUNT }
A legendary poker game takes place in a Dublin pub while a woman leaves Dublin to search the Seven Seas for her wayward child's father.
Gerry Hunt's IN DUBLIN CITY is an astonishing slice of magic realism and acts as a companion to the recent graphic novel STREETS OF DUBLIN.
"Hunt's story and art have the gritty smarts of the great original 1976 Action in the bonds that form between his urban underdogs."
Paul Gravett
AVAILABLE THROUGH DIAMOND ASK YOUR LOCAL STORE
Visit http://www.dublincomics.com


WHATEVER COMICS
Established 1989
Latest Imports
Graphic Novels
Vast Selection of Back Issues
Merchandise
Small Press Titles
Standing Order Service
PLUS A WHOLE LOT MORE...
2 Burgate Lane
Canterbury, Kent CT1 2HH
Tel: 01227 453226
Open Monday to Saturday 10am - 5.30pm
www.whatevercomics.com

female. But only men in their 30s or older seem to pick up **CI**.

Rob Nott *responded:* It's probably an internet thing then. Trendy kids wanting all their news in digital format rather than in a newsprint format. It's probably the equivalent of kids wanting to download music rather than have it on CD format (though respect to all the kids who've started buying 7" singles. Apparently vinyl is getting a following again amongst the young **NME** crowd).

If the medium is an issue (print rather than web based) then there's probably not a lot **CI** can do to attract the neuromancer crowd.

Lew Stringer *added:* In my experience hardly anyone reads comics! In fact the only time I meet comics readers is when I go to a comics shop or convention.

Earl John Davis *wasn't having any of it:* Lew, about 3,000 people work at my office. Almost all of them read digital comics even if it's just the daily *Dilbert* strip we have on our intranet.

Dez Skinn *then threw down the gauntlet with:* So would anybody care to take a stab at listing the likely target audiences for the following?

2000 AD

The Judge Dredd Megazine

2000AD Extreme (the reprint one)

Doctor Who Magazine

Vampirella (which DOES keep resurfacing from Harris Publishing)

American Virgin (sorry, but an opportunity to test your wit!)

Maus

Manga Shakespeare

Comics International

There ya go! Get yer thinking caps on.

Among many oh-so witty replies, ***James Hodgkins*** *threw in:* This will be fun. Rather than just suggest target audiences, I'm going to offer my thoughts on who actually might read them, and add a target audience afterwards.

2000 AD – Emo kids, weekend Goths and punks, people who wear Slipnot t-shirts and middle aged men who wish they could still get away with wearing Slipnot T-shirts (or similar), also middle aged men who do still wear Slipnot T-shirts against their better judgement. Target audience? The same.

The Megazine – As above.

2000AD Extreme (the reprint one) – Children. Target audience? Children.

Doctor Who Magazine – The kind of folks you see at memorabilia type shows who walk around with more purchased tat than they can possibly carry or display nicely at home, even if their Moms' or wives would let them. Target audience? People who watch the TV show, Ha! They wish.

Vampirella – Middle aged men who stand no chance of fitting into a Slipnot T-shirt, and diehard comics fans who think Alfredo Alcala over Buscema represents a high watermark in comic art. Target audience? Not a bloody clue!

American Virgin – Misguided top shelf tremblers and Frank Quitely completists. Target audience? The same.

Maus – Arch liberals and **Guardian** readers who think they've discovered a bold and innovative new artform, who might say things like, "I just read it as if it were a real book". They feel guilty about it's "Jewishness" as it sits uncomfortably along side their views on the Palestinian issue, but it's OK because they are only mice and cats. Target audience? Guilt stricken liberals.

Manga Shakespeare – Teachers, who immediately regret having done so. Target audience? The children of the people who read *Maus*.

Comics International – Us! The good folks on this very message board, and their ilk. Target audience? The same.

On CI's style...

On a thread about the look of ***CI****,* ***James Hodgkins*** *then posted:* A new masthead/logo, and some layout font changes to the interior is not a major job. Why do people keep insisting it is?

Simon Russell *of boinggraphics .co.uk took the bait:* Because it has to be if you do it properly!

The fonts/logos/layouts/colours/ page furniture and signposting used in a magazine design are key to communicating its intent and personality.

The designer has to identify and understand all this and then work towards a design that will do much more than look nice. A skilled enthusiast can prettify the look of a magazine but that's just the tip of an iceberg – there needs to be some rigorous design work under the waterline if the thing is to work properly for an extended run.

Tales of sequestering editorial and design teams away are standard in professional publishing circles.

Fanzines can take a more suck-it-and-see approach but **CI** is a commercial concern so I've been reacting appropriately.

James Hodgkins *came back with:* H'mmm. I've never heard such toss. But this could just be my ignorance of course.

When I say it would be easy to do a new logo etc for **CI**, it's because I know the magazine, I know its target audience, I've got a good handle on its USPs and I've been working in the industry for ages.

I would not suggest that revamping **The People's Friend** or **Woman's Realm** would be so simple a task. For that I would have to do the kind of R&D you describe. But we are talking about **CI**!

If you'd like to provide me with an example of "rigorous design work under the waterline" for me to look at, maybe you'll open my eyes to what I've been missing all these years. I've tried to locate

AT LAST - a quarterly magazine devoted to British comics!

52 BIG PAGES PACKED with information, features and the VERY BEST of British comics!

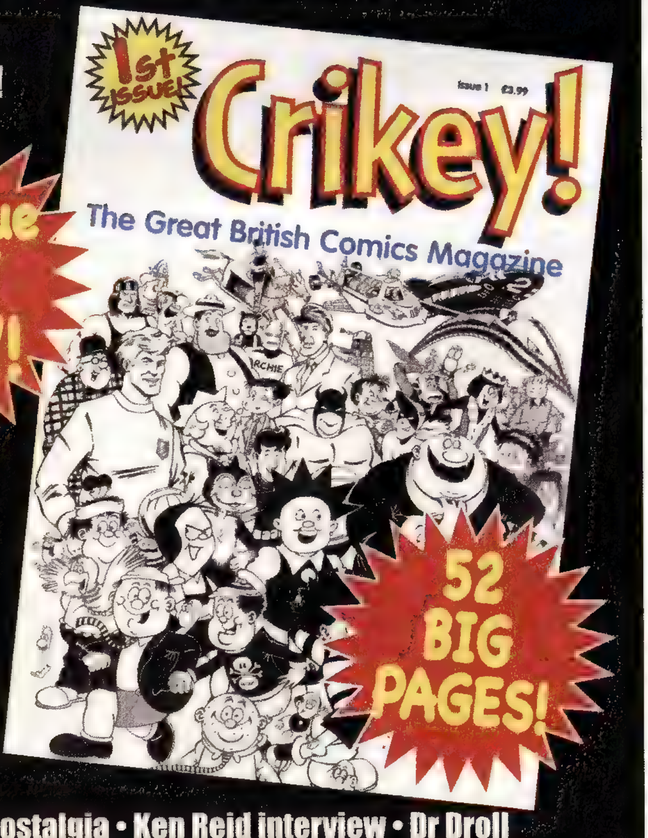
ISSUE ONE -- £3.99 POST FREE!

1st Issue OUT NOW!

Or better still, subscribe for FOUR issues for just £15.96!

Simply send a cheque payable to:
BRIAN M. CLARKE at:
4 Hillsborough Drive,
Unsworth, Bury. BL9 8LE
or
Visit our WEBSITE at www.crikeyuk.co.uk
and subscribe via PayPal

INSIDE our fabulous FIRST ISSUE...
• Crazy British strips • British horror comics • Comics nostalgia • Ken Reid interview • Dr Droll
• Frank Bellamy • Misty Comic • Leo Baxendale and Wham! • Jackie Comic ... and much, much more!


1st ISSUE!
Crikey!
Issue 1 £3.99
The Great British Comics Magazine
ARCHIE
52 BIG PAGES!

your website to see what you are about, but I've had no luck. Can you supply a URL that is live? I'm keen to learn from a master, I'm a bit long in the tooth to be mentored, but I'm always open to new ideas.

Also if you can nominate a font or two and a grid structure (which is all I was talking about really) that does so much more than look pretty and impart information, I'd be eternally grateful.

And if by some stroke of luck you have the secret to eternal youth, why not throw that it as well.

Blimey!

Ade Brown replied: I used to do a football fanzine when it was Letraset and Pritt glue! I agree with you, James, in as much as it is a simple job for someone that knows design to tidy the mag up.

I know nothing about that but I can do Opinionated.

Overall, for my mere reader's eyes the last issue was a mess. Where it used to be easy to find *News/SmallAds/Reviews,* this one was hampered by the variegated layouts etc throughout, the run of adverts at the front and the "articles" being in the middle somewhere.

The cover: Rather than the cluttered cover, I prefer a simple one-image cover with the names of the characters/creators featured within. Some of the teasers along the bottom (without the pics) aimed at the comic-cognoscenti with a couple of "insets" – these could be aimed at the casual browser – get them to pick it up and look inside.

Take a look at the movie and music mags. **Uncut** magazine does a very informative "cluttered" version and actually teases the reader to look within.

Even games magazines that all them kids read are easier on the eye.

The handy "All Time **CI** covers" file at the back of this issue shows me that #197 to 205 (except #203) are similarly cluttered. The #206 preview looks splendid.

The Intro Pages: I find the first seven pages unreadable (not including the false cover which I actually prefer over the actual cover) and shouldn't a magazine really grab your attention in those first few pages?

The first half of the first contents page means nothing to anyone outside of "comics fandom", so why not say a bit more about the three main items? And have an editorial welcome. Even a guest editorial?

For me the second contents page should be a manifesto for the way the magazine is divided each month, and this works reasonably well, except that it's on an even page and I kept missing it!

The News Pages: There is a split decision on the news pages. I quite like them, but wonder if one of the Big Articles should appear first? Or one of the regular columns?

By the time we get to the black and white news pages, I think I am just being gratuitous but here's a thing, why have the Tardi article on a colour page and book report in B&W? No other complaints about the news pages...

Not wishing to upset Dez, but his company's Quality Comics advert breaks up the magazine at the wrong place. It would have made a great centre pull-out if the centre pages were not going to be used for the **Spider-Man** or **The Initiative** (one of which SHOULD be in the middle – I still have my **Blake's Seven** pull-out posters !)

The Articles: I like the layout of the main articles too. See? Not all badness, am I?

The Columns: But I think something should be done with the columns. How about having them all in a house style that stands out from the mag a bit more? Besides Biff's, which is sensibly located where it needs to be, and *Networks* and *Gutters* which go together like limestone and gruyere.

Perhaps the mag needs more pages with only two columns of text, by the way.

Another vote to drop the *Advance Listings* unless they can be advanced. Although I reckon they can be very useful if they can be brought out ahead of publication.

Reviews: They are are fine and I particularly like them having colour illustrations. They should be more important than the listings for me.

The Yellow Pages: Finally, here's a controversial one. Move the *Directory*. If it is to be on "different colour paper" why not use actual different paper and pair its six pages up with the six pages of listings and then use them to break up the magazine? (Dez will have the answer to this in something to do with the way the pages are printed!) Even if you are going to colour the pages, rather than use coloured paper, this could be a pullout section or could sit either side of the central "in-depth articles"(e.g. in this issue, pages 35-40 and 61-66 with other pages shuffled accordingly).

There's a load of nonsense above, and some of these are just devil's advocate type ideas for the sake of it.

I could have just said "Simplify the layout and the covers" and then "what James said", but I didn't.

Incidentally, the actual content is quite up to standard, so I am not likely to drop **CI** any time soon.

Martin Gray threw in: A redesign would send out a useful message that things were changing. Nothing daft (anyone remember when the excellent zine **BEM** experimented with jagged columns for the lettercol?) – just something smart.

The news column should just go if it can't be up to date. I know not everyone has the net, but there are plenty of more up-to-date print sources. I don't know if the print schedule and **CI** staffing might allow for a later print slot for a news insert, that might help.

A few good columnists would be good; folk with an easy writing

CULT FICTION
ART AND COMICS

UNTIL 1 JULY 2007
THE NEW ART GALLERY, WALSALL

14 JULY – 2 SEPTEMBER 2007
CASTLE MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY, NOTTINGHAM

27 SEPTEMBER – 11 NOV 2007
LEEDS CITY ART GALLERY

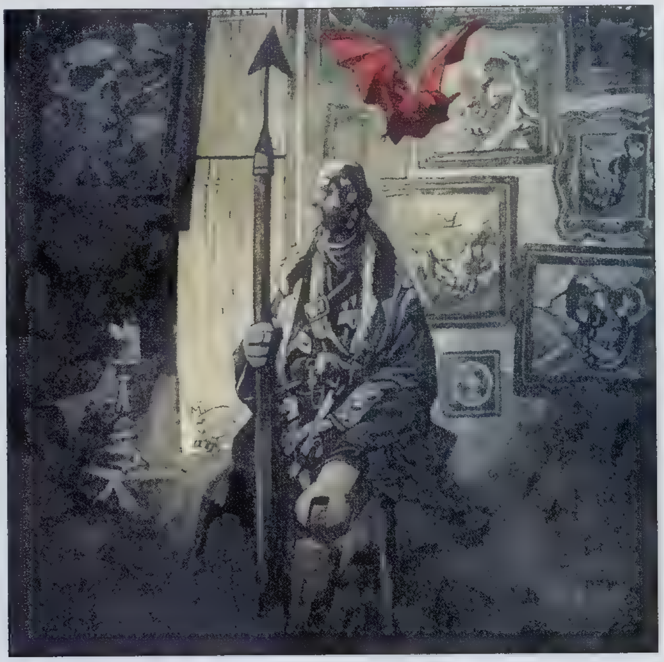
17 NOV – 13 JAN 2008
ABERYSTWYTH ARTS CENTRE

19 JANUARY – 9 MARCH 2008
TULLIE HOUSE, CARLISLE

SOUTHBANK CENTRE
HAYWARD TOURING

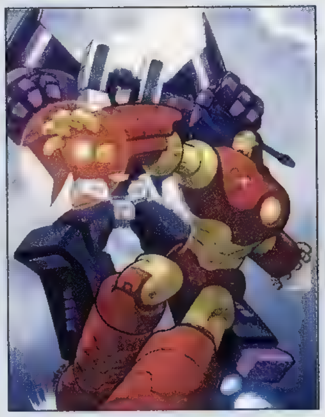
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Travis Millard, *Sally*, 2004, © Travis Millard 2007, Courtesy the artist and Richard Heller Gallery, Los Angeles



COMING ATTRACTIONS
COMICS INTERNATIONAL #204

IN AN exclusive interview with **CI**, **Hellboy** creator Mike Mignola talks about his move into prose with **Baltimore: Or, The Steadfast Tin Soldier and the Vampire**, the illustrated novel *[cover art above]* he has co-authored with Dark Horse's **Buffy the Vampire Slayer** writer Christopher Golden.



Also lined up for next issue is more "Robots in Disguise" as writer Stuart Moore discusses his biggest Marvel project to date– the four-issue **New Avengers/Transformers** *[see art, right]* – exclusively with **CI**.

In addition, keeping our "movies in your future" features flowing, we've two in #204. In one we map the long and pitfall-strewn road to bring Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons' **Watchmen** to the big screen. The other looks at director Timur Bekmambetov's plans to film Mark Millar and J.G. Jones's Image/Top Cow four-parter, **Wanted**.

And next issue's retro feature chronicles the history of *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* in comics on both sides of the Atlantic.

Also, with the San Diego Comic Con just concluded, we'll have coverage of all the major projects announced by Marvel, DC, Dark Horse et al as well as an exclusive interview with Chris Ryall in which the IDW editor-in-chief discusses his plans for the latest licence to come his way... *Doctor Who [see art, left]*!

As well as all the regular features and columns, we'll also be carrying three competitions. There'll be chances to win sets of **52** trade paperbacks as well as copies of the **Sex Pistols** graphic novel and the **TripWire Annual**.

Further down the line, we've lined up in-depth interviews with Mike Ploog, Jim Starlin and Liam Sharp with several more to come!

style who aren't afraid to be controversial on occasion, but neither are they trying to stir the pot for the sake of it.

If they're comics creators they should be someone with something to say, not just people who are fashionable... that way lies lack of ideas and self-indulgence (see **SFX**). Former pros with no particular axe to grind might be of some use here (Hey, Dez!).

I agree with Shane that features on TV comics aren't the way to go – I'm old, and a fan of such shows as *The Avengers*, but even I'm not interested, as comics spin-offs of TV and film so rarely impact on the original stuff. If it ain't canon, I don't care.

Perhaps a few ideas that are no longer being used could be looked at; hero histories, round table discussions and, as has been mentioned, non-time sensitive stuff (e.g. a history of UK superheroes from the US publishers).

A strong lettercol is a must; I'll gladly write in often and at boring length if it'll help.

TV Comics

***Mychailo Kazybrid** piped up with:* Looks like I was the only one, but I really did enjoy the *Danger Man* retrocomics feature.

As a kid, I loved checking out the vast range of comics at my local comic stall. Mixed in with the early DC and Marvel would be certain British TV related titles, sweet memories!

As for **CI**, whilst we care enough to offer constructive criticism, it shows Mike and the team that the publication is important to us all and that we're fully behind it.

***David Marston** added:* I'm fine with features on TV articles, etc. Features are always going to be of interest to some people and you can appreciate the attempts to draw a wider audience, but *The Prisoner* follows hot on the heels of extended *Dr Who* coverage and *The Avengers* – perhaps a different approach (such as an in-depth look at Manga, or a history of alternative US comics or a feature on the UK small press) would be a nice change for the next issue?

***Lew Stringer** reacted:* Surely it's better to keep those cult TV fans coming back for a few more issues, once you've hooked them? Also, the point is that this is a *series* of articles on TV comics, with Gerry Anderson material (**TV 21**, **Countdown**, etc.) to follow.

Articles on Manga and the small press seem to be ten a penny these days. When was the last time you read an article on *Danger Man* comics? (Never, perhaps, outside of a *Prisoner* fan mag, and that was inaccurate.)

All the alternative suggestions you mention might be on the cards for all I know, but covering TV-related comics (including old UK comics) will be an insight for most readers. Aren't we all, as comic fans, interested in expanding our knowledge of comics?

I assume that one point of these articles is to attract sales from other cult arenas. For example, I was able to give **CI** #202, which featured the *Danger Man* TV comics article, a plug on the most popular Prisoner fan site, *The Unmutual.co.uk*.

It might only sell a few hundred extra copies, but it all helps.

***Dez Skinn** summed up:* Thank you Lew, for explaining what I'd have thought was the bleedin' obvious! Five skip pages shouldn't be enough (in themselves) to stop anybody buying it, but if they're informative enough should add to the total readership.

My last QCL trade solicited issue, #201, had *The Avengers* TV-to-comics feature. Orders soared, far higher even than the Mark Millar solicited #200 which in itself was a peak.

OK, the bulk increase was from US stores, but anything that enhances the viability of our country's trade mag should surely be celebrated. ...Dez *(who, with John Freeman, grafts like a grafting thing over putting those retro features together when either could knock off a history of the FF in their sleep.)*

CI #201 competition winners

IN **CI** #201, 10 readers were each offered the opportunity to win copies of ***The Ultimates 2; Rise of the Black Panther***, Lionsgate's animated direct-to-DVD feature. The winners were:

A.J Herbert, Sittingbourne
Michael Walsh, Colchester
Colin Devey, Normanton
Victor Etherington, Chigwell
Jim Stewart, Harlow
Mohammed Rahman, London
Simon Kemp, Northampton
David Peel, Launceston
C Morgan, Stoke-on-Trent
Bill Collins, Willenhall

Reader votes scored the 12 most popular sections of the issue as:

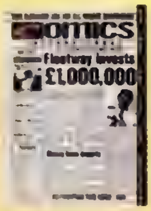
1 News International (22.2%)
2 300 feature (12.4%)
3 Reviews (9.4%)
4 Ghost Rider feature (8.4%)
5 Advance Listings (7.6%)
6 News Round Up (6.7%)
7 Competition (5.2%)
=8 Biff's Illuminations (3.4%)
Baron Zemo feature (3.4%)
TV Avengers feature (3.4%)
Frame to Frame (3.4%)
12 NetWorks (3.1%)

The highest scoring section as the least popular feature was was *Manga Zone* with 35.1%, which suggests **CI**'s readers may have more traditional tastes. Second with 19.1% was the *TV Avengers* feature – one man's meat and all that – while third was *Comics Economics* with 12.7%. Interesting reading.

GRAB A CHAPTER OF COMICS HISTORY...

omics
$80,000 paid for first Batman comic

CI 1: $80,000 paid for first Batman, Dan Dare, UK distrib history, Crisis, McFarlane, TV Avengers.


omics
Fleetway invests £1,000,000

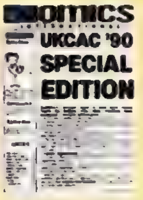
CI 2: Fleetway's £1m comics investment, TSR, Batbooks 1990, Eagle, Clive Barker, Fantasia.

omics
Spider-Man 1 prints over 2,500,000

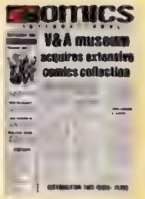
CI 3: Spider-Man #1, Frank Hampson, Enemy Ace, 2001 Nights, Beano at 2500, Talbot at DC.

omics
$281 million fraud suit over Ninja Turtles

CI 4: TMNT fraud, Dan Dare at Southeby's, Dick Tracy, Supes on Radio 4, Bogey Man, Revolver.


omics
UKCAC '90
SPECIAL EDITION

CI 5: UKCAC 90 Special, Xenozoic Tales, Megazine, Pro-Choice comic, Genghis Grimtoad, Viz ripoffs.


omics
V&A museum acquires extensive comics collection

CI 6: V&A comics, MCA & Harvey comics, Jane, Topper axed, Batman 3D, Caliber, Flash Gordon.

omics
Fleetway axes experimental title Revolver

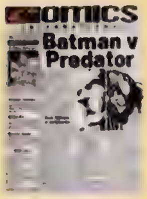
CI 7: Revolver axed, Marvel mutants, Union Jack, Marvel UK, UKCAC 1991 report, adult titles.

omics
Spider-Man 1: Platinum Edition

CI 8: Platinum Spidey, Armageddon, Morrison's Kid Eternity, Iger obit, Magnus at Valiant, JSA.

omics
New Superman title from DC

CI 9: Infinity Gauntlet, Toxic, Axel Pressbutton, Deadline, Price Guides, Xpresso, censorship...


omics
Batman v Predator

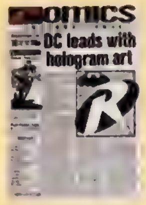
CI 10: X-Force launches, Davis's Batman, new Solar, Pirhana Press, DC adds Impact, Fleetway boost.

omics
X-Force breaks sales records

CI 11: Record comics sales, War of the Gods, manga backlash, Ayers' Avenger, Silent Mobius.

omics
Byrne back on X-Men

CI 12: Claremont off but Byrne back on X-Men, Marvel share offer, Dredd v Batman, Golden Age.


omics
DC leads with hologram art

CI 13: Pirhana's Prince, Virgin stores, Marvel fan club concern, Kurtzman's new Two-Fisted Tales.

omics
Terminator v RoboCop

CI 14: Free colour 23x16 Bisley poster, John Brown's Blast!, Thunderbirds, Viz's legacy, Carol Kalish obit.

omics
Marvel launches six Big Gun titles

CI 15: Disney ditches 8 titles, UK: Blast, Crisis, Toxic and Havok killed, Liefeld's eXecutioners.

omics
Judge Dredd set to go mega in '92

CI 16: "Bigger than Bowie or Sting": Dredd signing, JLA relaunch, The Simpsons at Marvel.

omics
Thanos returns in "The Infinity War"

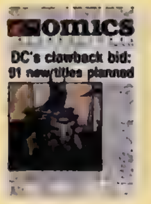
CI 17: DC quits Sparta, X-O dispute, Red Dwarf, S/Age Classics, Southeby's 1st comic auction, Tarzan.

omics
Key creators quit top Marvel titles

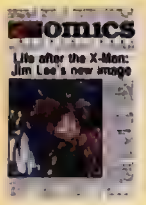
CI 18: Image breakaway from Marvel, BWSmith at Valiant, Tina Turner meets Garth, PotApes, Bunter.

omics
50% sales drop for Youngblood 2

CI 19: Perez quits DC, Bat-boom '92, Youngblood slump, Tome Press, Unity, Inside Tundra UK story.


omics
DC's clawback bid: 91 new titles planned

CI 20: DC plus 91 and Marvel adds 16 X-books, Prince: Alter Ego, MM back, Disney's Touchmark axed.


omics
Life after the X-Men: Jim Lee's new image

CI 21: WildCATs launch, Feiffer, Moebius, Dark Hse adds ten, Skin scheduled, Dredd in US, Darkstars.

omics
Batman Returns sets new world record

CI 22: Copyright war Image v Marvel, Grendel, (lack of) Impact, Talbot's Batman, ECs, Cyberforce.

omics
Predator v Magnus mini-series in peril

CI 23: Wetworks, Larry Niven, Animated Batman, Supreme, Shooter ousted from Valiant, the Fat Fury.

omics
DC launches Vertigo: over 20 new titles

CI 24: 20 new titles in DC's Vertigo, Topps move to comics, restructuring DC staff, San Diego '92.

omics
Spawn success lures top creators

CI 25: Morrison gets Spawn gig because we said it was so! Diamond buys Titan, Pitt, Tarzan.

omics
Image team breaks away from Malibu

CI 26: Vertigo launches, Image drops Malibu, UK customs raid, Milestone, Kirby at Image, Dynamo.

omics
New Marvel mutant projects for 1993

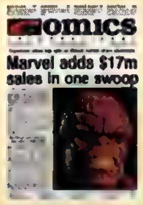
CI 27: Marvel UK adds 3, Spawn/Cerebus, Legion revamp, Valiant adds 4, Don Melia tribute book.

omics
Trial of Venom: up 900% in ten days

CI 28: Speculation madness, Continuity promises, Byrne's Aliens, Milestone, Tor, VAT on comics fear.

omics
Marvel adds four new X-Men titles

CI 29: DC's new Dredd, Dark Horse UK, Vertigo distrib mess, Superman enhanced, Topps Comics.


omics
Marvel adds $17m sales in one swoop

CI 30: Marvel market share plummets, Knightfall, Deathmate, Turok, Ultraverse launches, Hex.

omics
The new Batman

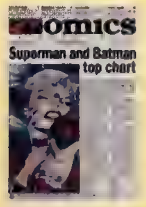
CI 31: Bizarre Batman, Hawkman, Dark Horse superheroes, Cerebus 0, Shooter talks Plasm/WWF.

omics
Batman v Dredd rematch
Judgement on Gotham II

CI 32: Special Kennedy cover for Batman/Dredd, Miller back on DD, Ranson at DC, Clive Barker-verse.

omics
Image Comics to cancel five titles

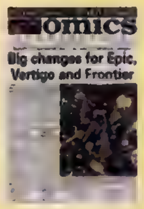
CI 33: Image cuts 5 titles, Women in manga, Image's Gen-X, Shooter backlash, Titan folds.


omics
Superman and Batman top chart

CI 34: Market doubles in a year, gamut of Batbooks, Conan cut, Garth, Peter David's Aquaman.

omics
Marvel to set up UK comic shops?

CI 35: UK comic shops for Marvel? Crumb does Kafka, Ross's Marvels, Marvel UK adds 8 titles.


omics
Big changes for Epic, Vertigo and Frontier

CI 36: Includes Preview Special #2, reshuffle after mainstream explosion, E-Man, retailers speak!

omics
After Image: Malibu launches Bravura

CI 37: Bravura launch, Superman expansion, terms eased by Diamond, Comics Expo 94(!), bumper Buster.

omics
Redefining the Marvel universe

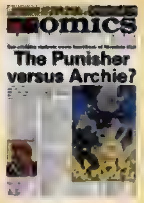
CI 38: Marvel consolides line, charts 1993, Ranson on Gaiman, Wild Palms, Sim on distribution, Bravura.

omics
Four publishers quit as market plummets

CI 39: Four publishers quit, THUNDER Agents, Doomsday returns, Miller on Batman/Spawn, Conan.

omics
Industry pays tribute to comics legend

CI 40: Industry mourns Jack Kirby, Dark Horse adds 11, Extreme adds 9, Vertigo UK, Milestone.


omics
The Punisher versus Archie?

CI 41: Punisher v Archie, Image adds 15 titles, Zero Hour details, Elseworlds, Gaiman writes Alice Cooper

omics
$65 million bid to buy Valiant

CI 42: $65m paid for Valiant, Generation X, DC's Zero Hour, Kaluta's Shadow, Axis's Shaman.

omics
Spawn creates comic shop havoc

CI 43: Ultraverse Yr 2, Spawn screw-up, Lee off Wildcats, Crow movie, Defiant's Schism, Barks.

omics
New comic shop in mystery blaze

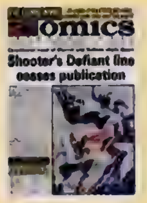
CI 44: Harvey titles at Marvel, Equinox manga, Next Comics, retail arson? Ezquerra: using an Apple,

omics
Image creators in title swap gambit

CI 45: Rejuvination at DC, Dk Horse diversifies, X-Men: 50% of Marvel's income, One Bad Rat.

omics
Tekno Comics set to launch in November

CI 46: Tekno launches, the complete Linsner, Marvel Select: new format, Team 7, Alfred Harvey obit.


omics
Shooter's Defiant line ceases publication

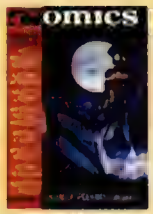
CI 47: Tekno Comics, X-Men Alpha, Defiant axed, Dark Horse, Marvel and DC expansion campaigns.

omics
Marvel Comics cancels the X-Men

CI 48: Marvel cancels X-Men, DeFalco quits, Gaiman's Angela, Otomo and Shirow at Dk Horse.

omics
Marvel acquires Malibu Comics

CI 49: Marvel acquires Malibu, Stan Lee creates Excelsior Comics, Cosmic Comics from Corman.



CI 50: Spidey's clone saga, Valiant cutbacks, Extreme expands, Topps Frankenstein v Dracula.

CI 51: Marvel buys up own distributor, new imprint for Jim Shooter, Marvel Music imprint.

CI 52: Captain Britain returns, Marvel cancels 16 titles, Morrison and Millar drop DC for Marvel.

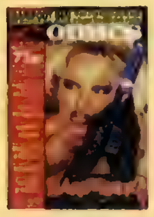
CI 53: Skrull Kill Krew, Tarzan v Predator, Aliens v Superman, Marvel buys Skybox & goes exclusive.

CI 54: Miller/Darrow's Big Guy, Alterniverse, Gaiman's Lady Justice, Conan, Vertigo's Egypt.

CI 55: Bisley's Bad Boy, DC/Diamond distrib deal, Perez/Chaykin/Asimov: I-Bots, Batman Forever.

CI 56: Bolton's Man-Bat, Ultraforce-Avengers, Bone joins Image, Overpower, Bane, distribution wars.

CI 57: Smith back on Conan, Ultraverse facelift, Extreme expansion, Astro City, Batman Forever.



CI 58: Barb Wire the movie, DC's Underworld, Broadway Comics, Dark Empire, distrib wars.

CI 59: Trek expansion, Malibu's new Terminator, Sensational Spider-Man, McKeever's Industrial Gothic.

CI 60: Star Wars boost for Dark Horse, Art Adams at Maximum Press, Capital vs Diamond, DC vs Marvel.

STAR WARS
comics

CI 61: Image adds eleven titles, Keown talks Pitt, Hellboy: Iron Shoes, The Phoenix Resurrection.

CI 62: The Crow returns, X-Nation 2099, Deadline cancelled, Skinn's benefit parachute jump (!), Ash.

CI 63: Hulk and Thor cancelled, Gaiman's Death mini, WaRP cans Elfquest, Lee/Liefeld back to Marvel.

ALL THE KEY EVENTS FROM 1990 TO 2007

CI 64: DC & Marvel's Amalgam, Marvel/Image feud resolved, Hitman, Marvel consolidates line.

CI 65: Knockabout hits HM Customs, Tarantino, Mister X, The Dreaming, Tekno changes, Poizon.

CI 66: Paramount at Marvel: Mission Impossible & Trek, Batman B&W, Ross's Kingdom Come.

CI 67/Warrior flip book: Big Ben, Liberators, Bogey (Skinn/Simpson + Morrison/Ridgway), news.

PREACHER FEATURES

CI 68: Matrix SF, Waid slams Marvel, JLA revamp, Monkeyman & O'Brien, Preacher, Birds of Prey.

CI 69: Ellis/Waid quit X-books, Matrix becomes Helix, Hudnell's goes solo, Frank's new Supergirl.

CI 70: 2000 AD at Hamlyns, Dark Horse 10th, Heroes Reborn, BWSmith Storyteller, Curt Swan obit

HEROES REBORN!

CI 71: Heroes reborn, Curse of Spawn, insider dealing at Marvel, Bongo, Mike Parobeck obituary.

CI 72: Caliber's War of the Worlds, Vampi's 25th, Animaniacs/X-Files, DC vs Marvel, Backlash/Spidey.

SPIDER-MAN & GEN 13

CI 73: Spidey/Gen 13, Event expansion, Liefeld solo (pt 1), Morrison's JLA, Superman marries Lois.

CI 74: Acclaim Turok, Mars Attacks, Batman/Cap, Liefeld solo (2), Top Cow back to Image, Onslaught

CATWOMAN & VAMPIRELLA

CI 75: Wildcats/X-Men, Catwoman/Vampi, Hate, Batman Masque, Byrne's fourth World, Brainbanx.

CI 76: Starman, Tenth, Batman v Aliens, Magnus, Image indies, Drakuun, Liefeld sez, Lori Lovecraft.

CI 77: Superman Blue, Elric returns, AC retro, Acclaim reboot, report: Marvel bankruptcy story.

AMALGAM YEAR TWO

CI 78: Amalgam Yr 2, Hellboy, Heroes World ends, Black Cross, Fault Lines, Dan Barry obit.

CI 79: Price & Joy by Ennis, Waterworld, MAD, Oink, Dicks, Pulp Heroes by DC, Preacher, Conan.

HEROES FOR HIRE

CI 80: Heroes for Hire, Marvel Flashbacks, Helix/Vertigo feature, new Spirit for Kitchen Sink, non-line.

CI 81: Ash: Quesada & Palmiotti speak, Marshal Law, Ross's Uncle Sam, Awesome formed, Badger.

CI 82: Lee after Liefeld on Capt America, Spirit, Cassaday's Desperadoes, WildStorm overhaul, Coven

CI 83: Dredd/Pred x-over, Fighting American, Topps X Files, Genesis at DC, Shi, Kitchen Sink sinks.

DIVINE RIGHT

CI 84: Morrison/Millar on The Flash, Quicksilver, Moorcock's Multiverse, San Diego '97, Crumb.

CI 85: Heroes Reborn, Gaiman & Vess: Stardust, DC's Tangent skip week, Fighting American, DV8.

Fantastic Four

CI 86: Lobdell & Davis on FF, Linsner, 3 new X-books, Endless, JLA Yr 1, Marvel liquidation save.

JLA: PARADISE LOST

CI 87: New Year's Evil, Sandman Presents, Bad Boy, Marvel's Conspiracy, Superman Red and Blue.

CI 88: DC's Babylon 5, Chix, Luther Arkwright, Image non-line, Marvel Universe, Frank Frazetta.

The Darkness

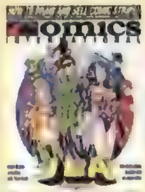
CI 89: Ennis Darkness feature, Blade, Surfer, Miller's 300 preview, Conan, Thrillkillers '62, Sheena.

VAMPIRELLA & PAINKILLER JANE

CI 90: Ennis's Enemy Ace, Resident Evil, Xena, David's Supergirl, 4 new IDs for Spidey, Stardust.

CI 91: Marvel/Event union, Superman returns, McFarlane's Heap, Girl Frenzy, DC exclusives.

CI 92: Billy (Shi) Tucci interview, Lady Death, Spidey cutbacks feature, McFarlane's Eclipse buy.



CI 93: Rampaging Hulk, Aliens, Conquest Studios, Qaliban (!), Young Justice, Titans, industry cutbacks.

CI 94: Xena/Wonder Woman, Ellis's Aliens, Dracula back at Marvel, Fanboy, more Star Wars.

NEW X-MEN REUNITE

CI 95: Wildcats/Aliens, Buffy debut, Terminator, Moore scripts collected, Tom Strong, Helix, Elvira

CI 96: Shooter's 4th, Chaos Comics at Marvel, Byrne's Spidey Chapter 1, Earth-X, Katsura at DkH.

CI 98: Dredd/Batman, Viz's Pokemon, Diggle on 2000AD creators, Deadpool, Spicecapades.

THE KINGDOM

CI 99: Garney's Hulk, Marvel Remix, Kingdom, Kyle Baker, new Spidey #1, Vertigo romance.

CI 100 plus free **#0**. X-Men expansion, Alex Ross, Marvel bankruptcy, Clerks, CI #1-100 feature.

X-FILES EXILED?

CI 101: X Files ends, Alan Davis's X-control, DC One Million, Colin Wilson, The Dandy, Bob Kane obit.

CI 102: Gibbons draws Vader, Cassaday & Ellis launch Planetary, JSA, Pat Mills at Oktomica.

CI 103: Superman/FF, Hong Kong superheroes, Moore's Supreme, Kitchen Sink ends, Tim Truman.

BLACK WIDOW

CI 104: Black Widow, Youngblood RIP, Books of Faerie, HP Lovecraft Anarky, Joe Orlando obit.

CI 105: Buffy comics feature, Liefeld on Cable, Studiosaurus, Alan Moore at Awesome: The Allies.

CI 106: The Darkness/Batman, Marvel France, Sandman Presents, BW Smith checklist/feature.

CRACKING UP?

CI 107: V, Astonishing X-Men launches, JLApe, Spawn the Undead, MC2, Maverick from Dk Horse.

CI 108: Star Wars in comics features, Congo Bill, Diabolik, The Bible by Giffen, Monstermen.

CI 109: Lord Horror, Batman v Tarzan, Sam & Twitch, Wagner on Xena, Ice Entertainment, Gon.

TOMB RAIDER

CI 110: Tomb Raider, Star Trek at WildStorm, Ellis walks off Hellblazer, Heroes Reborn, Gaiman.

CI 111: Buffy's Angel, Luke Skywalker marries, Blade revived, Ellis quits DC, Steranko's Chandler, Xena

CI 112: Davis's The 12, Steampunk, The Atomics, Bat-bonanza, Hawkman, Tomb Raider, JLA Earth 2

DEATHMATCH 2000

CI 113: Claremont back on X-Men, CrossGen start, DC's Spirit, new Eternals, Superman copyright bid.

CI 114: Gatecrasher from Wizard, Angela, JLA Earth 2, Gotham Knights, Craig Russell's Rhinegold

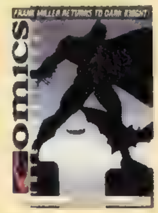
CI 115: John Watson's 1st cvr, Gorilla launches, Ennis's Punisher, Ellis's X-team, Burns' Dante.

CI 116: Shockrockets, new Brit wave, Buster, Powers, Batman/Lobo, Commando, Don Martin

CI 117: Megazine make over, Joker/Mask, Lucifer, Viz undergrounds, Fourth World revamp, Grendel.

CI 118: Gorilla imprint launches, Tellos, Silver Age firsts, Marvels Comics, Cross Gen launches, Transmet.

CI 119: Custom Comics of America launches, Jedi Council, Eisner's 'Nam, Morrison's JLA, Larsen's FF



CI 120: first word on Dk Knight 2, Stan Lee at DC, Straczynski at Top Cow, Sentry, Black Bull.

CI 121: Bendis revamp for Spidey & X-Men, Lost Girls, last Wolverine story, creators on new X-books

CI 122: 2000AD revamp, Straczynski's new Midnight Nation, Rom, Dreadstar, Shi, Wildcats, new JLA.

CI 123: Ultimate line launches, Miller's Jesus!, Lucky Luke, new home for 2000 AD, Santiago Con

CI 124: Bart Comics, adult WildStorm, House on the Borderland, DD: Yellow, Der Mond, Ellis.

CI 125: JLA overkill? com.X launch, Busiek & Liefeld feud, Barks obit, Harras out Quesada in.

CI 126: Kurt Busiek's Defenders, Morrison on X-Men, Captain Britain, Han Solo, Speed Racer.

CI 127: Kevin Smith's Green Arrow, Microsoft comics, Ennis's Pilgrim, Gorilla's lineup details.

GRAB A CHAPTER OF COMICS HISTORY...

CI 128: With the cover McFarlane stopped (on p3)! MM Features +Universe X appendix (runs to #140)

CI 129: Spawn the Dark Ages, American Century Amber Benson's Buffy, JSA, Ministry of Space.

CI 130: Quesada's new look Spidey, Straczynski, Chaykin's Cable, Jedi vs Sith, Allred's new X-Force

CI 131: Morrison's X-Men feature, Adam Hughes on Tomb Raider feature, The Mummy, Brubaker's Batman

CI 132: JLA/Avengers, Whedon's Fray, Paradise X, Ennis's Punisher, Ghost Rider revived, X-creators.

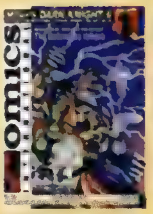
CI 133: Just Imagine, Elektra revived, Cyber-nary, Platinum Comics, Startling Stories, Hulk.

CI 134: Straczynski's Delicate Creatures, GI Joe, Wolverine: Origin, Joker: Last Laugh, Megazine.

CI 135: Miracleman at Image, Ninja Boy, Buffy, MAX launch, War Story, Ridgway's Eureka preview

CI 136: Bruce Jones's Hulk, Superman/Tarzan, Legion relaunch, Gaiman's Valentine, Farscape, Kieth.

CI 137: ABC's Top Ten, Wonder Woman, Grell, Minor Miracles, Jango Fett, JLA: Haven, The Authority.



CI 138: Dark Knight II, Defenders, BRPD, Gene Simmons, Thunderbirds, George Evans obituary.

CI 139. Tomb Raider, Capt Britain, Batman10c, Hasbro, Howard the Duck, Apache Skies, Ultimates.

CI 140: Bagged with free Motor Mayhem comic, Corben's Cage, Gaiman at Marvel, Cla$$ War, Ellis.

CI 141: Scorpion King, Linsner, Supercar, Tigra, Kyle Baker, Spidey film news, Gray Morrow obit.

CI 142: Dredd's 25th, 7/11 tributes, Vampires from DH, Micronauts at Image, Shooter, Blade.

CI 143: Spidey film tie-ins, Marvel manga, Bilal, Jason Kingsley interview, Oni, Schaffenberger obit

CI 144: Alan Moore, Alex Ross interview and sketchbook, Mutant Earth, Metal Hurlant in English.

CI 145: Watson cover for new Brother Matthew serial (ends #153), Filth, Paul Pope, Dredd audio.

CI 146: Watson variant shown Agent X, Stanley Pitt & Dennis McLoughlin obits, Micronauts revival.

CI 147: Transformers, Sutton & Kanigher obits, Picasso, Warpsmiths return, European festivals reports.

CI 148: Marville, Star Wars, manga wars, GI Joe, Moorcock, Weapon X, Battle of the Planets.

CI 149: Supergirl, Davis on Killraven, Pratt on Wolverine, Fabry feature, Batman: Hush, Gen 13.

CI 150: Ross on JLA, Kubert's Tex, Charlton, Global Frequency, Buffy, CSI, Marvel UK, Dredd.

CI 151: Alan Grant on Rebellion, Millar on DC, Weston on egos, IPC, who owns what? Ultimate War

CI 152: The Authority, Ridgway on CGI comics, Batman/Aliens II preview, Unstable Molecules, Sleeper

CI 153: Controversial Rawhide Kid, Cleese on Superman, Ruse, UK ban on Transformers, Clowes

CI 154: Perez at Cross Gen, Authority relaunch Nakatsuka at Marvel, Jack Staff ar Image, Starlin's End

CI 155: Battle of the Planets/Thundercats, JLA gets Claremont, Crumb's revival, Daredevil preview

CI 156: Marvel manga, Dark Horse horror, Shrek, Bagge's Sweatshop, Strip Art Features quits DH.

CI 157: Thunder Agents reborn at DC, Marvel UK's first revived, X-Men 2 film preview, New Mutants.

CI 158: Ressurecting Epic, Terminator 3, Hulk movie spin-offs, Disney manga, Matrix comics.

CI 159: RoboCop, Fallen Angel, Lee's Striperette, Com.X's Njin, Mary Jane, Al Williamson Adventures.

CI 160: Gaiman's 1602, Dr Who spin-off, Ghost-busters, computer game comics, Snake Plissken.

CI 161: JLA/Avengers, Stan Lee bio, Steve Niles, Bash St at 50, Squadron Supreme, The Ring at DH.

CI 162: Millar's three, Sgt Rock, NYX, Tokyopop expansion, Hawkeye, Al Hartley obit, Talbot's Alice

CI 163: Lee's Superman, Megatokyo, Sandman: King of Dreams, Nabiel Kanan, Conan comeback, Niles.

CI 164: Ultimate FF, Ploog at CrossGen, hip-hop comics, The Escapist, Cisco Kid, Crepax obit.

CI 165: CrossGen crisis, Transformers, Micronauts, Millarworld, Waid back on FF, Pete Morisi obit.

CI 166: Bendis' Secret War, Conan, Lady Death, American Splendor, John Tartag obit, Watchmen.

CI 167. Matrix comics, Silent Hill, Kabuki, Light Brigade, Chaykin projects, Soulcatcher, Coup d'Etat.

CI 168: Millar's Spidey, Humanoides at DC, Bull-dog Drummond, Hellboy, Don Lawrence tributes.

CI 169: Schwartz obit, NYC Mech, Star Trek, JLA: Kid Amazo, Eisner's John Law, Jim Lee preview.

CI 170: Whedon on X-Men, Raven House, GI Joe, Elfquest, Dan Dare, 007, Excalibur, Rogue Trooper.

CI 171: Identity Crisis, Bendis on Avengers, The Elite, Parkhouse at Dark Horse, new female Robin.

CI 172: Powers at Icon, Starjammers, Dredd at DC, Don Lawrence, Nocenti at DC, Spider-Man 2 movie

CI 173: Infantino sues DC, 9/11 tributes, Spawn, Grimjack, Korean GI Joe, Brodie's Law preview.

CI 174: 2099 Marvel Knights, Cleese, Starlin's Cosmic Guard, 24, India's Spider-Man, Magnus, Sacco.

CI 175: Kirby tribute, Matrix's Burlyman, Bone, Moorcock's Multiverse, Adam Strange preview, Striker.

CI 176: Ennis's 303, Hardy Boys, Authority: Revolution, Razor's Edge, San Diego 04 con report

CI 177: Albion, India's Gotham Comics, facelift for Dandy, Samurai, new look Avengers, Conan.

CI 178: Comics creators dis The Incredibles, Marvel in Iraq, Ellis at Avatar, Carey on Constantine.

CI 179: Milligan on X-Men, Beyond Avalon, Black Panther, Viz biog, Legion, Battle Hymn, Concrete.

CI 180: Majestic preview, Star Wars III, Morrison's 7 Soldiers, Korea's Kandora, Gotham Comics, Speakeasy.

CI 181: V for Vendetta, All-Star Batman, end for DreamWave, Black Knight, The Gloom, Freas obit.

CI 182: Sin City, Stan Lee's Riftworld, Captain Britain, Event Horizon, Wolfman's Homeland.

CI 183: FF movie, Ron Embleton, Gaiman mini, Bolland preview, Silent Dragon, Shaun of the Dead

CI 184: Batman Begins, Straczynski at Icon, Son of Vulcan, MC2, Rann/Than War, Dick Ayers, Messick

CI 185: DC All-Stars, Jack Staff strip begins (to #199), House of M, Striker, ends, GI Joe, Magnus.

CI 186. Moore quits DC, Unseen Alex Ross, AK, Jack Cross, Mutopia X, Go! manga, Freak Bros.

CI 187: Infinite Crisis, Supergirl returns, Buffy's Spike, Transformers at IDW, Striker resurrection.

CI 188: Spirit returns, IDW's Doomed, Disney's WITCH, Top Shelf super-heroes, New Authority.

CI 189: Micronauts, Tim Burton manga, 13th Son, Wizardworld 05, ABC add-ons, McCarthyisms, Bullseye

CI 190: Death's Head, DMZ, Testament, Striker, Team Zero, Dark Horse Star Wars, Team Zero.

ALL THE KEY EVENTS FROM 1990 TO 2007

CI 191: Stephen King, Sgt Rock, GI Joe: Sigma 6, Carnival of Souls, Sean of the Dead, westerns.

CI 192: Syd Jordan's new SF strip previewed, The 198 from Millar, Doc Samson, Exterminators.

CI 193: John Burns at Marvel, Bendis' Avengers, Cyberforce, One Year Later, Clive Barker, Ken Bulmer.

CI 194: DC's 52 and Claw, New Universe, new Blue Beetle, Annihilation, Zombie-sama, Ms Marvel

CI 195: Virgin Comics, V for Vendetta, Gaiman's Eternals, Wolverine Yr 1, licensing, The Crusades.

CI 196: Doctor Who in comics, Ennis's Boys, new Kirby title, Brave New World, Microsoft.

CI 197: Spider-Man 3, Doctor Who pt 2, Dredd Year 1, Wonder Woman, Transformers, Pixar, ERB

CI 198: Brad Meltzer on the new JLA, Doctor Who pt 3, Ghost Rider, Alice in Sunderland.

CI 199: Doctor Who pt 4, Ultimate Power, Brendan McCarthy Solo, Wildcats, Kickback, Henson manga.

CI200: Millar on Civil War + McNiven sketchbook, DBPro at Marvel, Midnighter. Giant issue.

CI 201: The Avengers in comics, 300, Ghost Rider, del Toro talks Hellboy 2. 100 pages!

CI 202: Surfer in FF2! Spidey 3! Hulk: Total War! Plus TV's Danger Man. 100 pgs!

CI203: Transformers & Iron Man movies plus The Prisoner in comics. You're reading it!

CI204: Gerry Anderson in comics, part one. Issue on sale July 2007. Outreach cover shown.

CI 205: Gerry Anderson in comics: Twizzle to Stingray. On sale August. Outreach cover shown.

CI206: The ultimate Mike Ploog interview, Gerry Anderson pt 3 & more. On sale September.

Plans are currently under way to produce **CI** volume binders with a blue leather-look finish and gold spine lettering, each holding 12 issues.

As a special offer, we will be giving a 15% discount off the RRP for all readers who write or e-mail us for further information.

To be added to our mailing list, please write to us at: **Comics International Binder Offer, PO Box 8944, Colchester, Essex CO1 9EE**

Or e-mail ***sales@comics-international.co.uk*** with the words "Binder Offer" in the subject header.

To: Comics International (back issues), PO Box 8944, Colchester, Essex CO1 9EE (Tel: 01206 762 464)

Please supply me with the back issues as ticked in the boxes below. (NB: all are post inclusive within the UK.)

PLEASE NOTE: ISSUES MARKED WITH A CROSS ARE OUT OF STOCK

☒ CI001 n/a
☐ CI002 £5.00
☒ CI003 n/a
☐ CI004 £3.50
☐ CI005 £3.50
☐ CI006 £3.50
☐ CI007 £3.50
☐ CI008 £3.50
☐ CI009 £3.50
☐ CI010 £3.50
☐ CI011 £2.50
☐ CI012 £2.50
☐ CI013 £2.50
☐ CI014 £2.50
☐ CI015 £2.50
☐ CI016 £2.50
☐ CI017 £2.50
☐ CI018 £2.50
☐ CI019 £2.50

☐ CI020 £2.50
☐ CI021 £1.50
☐ CI022 £1.50
☒ CI023 n/a
☐ CI024 £1.50
☐ CI025 £1.50
☐ CI026 £1.50
☐ CI027 £1.50
☐ CI028 £1.50
☐ CI029 £1.50
☐ CI030 £1.50
☐ CI031 £1.50
☐ CI032 £1.50
☐ CI033 £1.50
☐ CI034 £1.50
☐ CI035 £1.50
☐ CI036 £1.50
☐ CI037 £1.50
☐ CI038 £1.50

☐ CI039 £1.50
☐ CI040 £1.50
☐ CI041 £1.50
☐ CI042 £1.50
☐ CI043 £1.50
☐ CI044 £1.50
☐ CI045 £1.50
☐ CI046 £1.50
☐ CI047 £1.50
☐ CI048 £1.50
☐ CI049 £1.50
☐ CI050 £1.50
☐ CI051 £1.50
☐ CI052 £1.50
☐ CI053 £1.50
☐ CI054 £1.50
☐ CI055 £1.50
☐ CI056 £1.50
☐ CI057 £1.50

☐ CI058 £1.50
☐ CI059 £1.50
☐ CI060 £1.50
☐ CI061 £1.50
☐ CI062 £1.50
☐ CI063 £1.50
☐ CI064 £1.50
☐ CI065 £1.50
☐ CI066 £1.50
☒ CI067 n/a
☐ CI068 £1.50
☐ CI069 £1.50
☐ CI070 £1.50
☐ CI071 £1.50
☐ CI072 £1.50
☐ CI073 £1.50
☐ CI074 £1.50
☐ CI075 £1.50
☐ CI076 £1.50

☐ CI077 £1.50
☐ CI078 £1.50
☐ CI079 £1.50
☐ CI080 £1.50
☐ CI081 £1.50
☐ CI082 £1.50
☐ CI083 £1.50
☐ CI084 £1.50
☐ CI085 £1.50
☐ CI086 £1.50
☐ CI087 £1.50
☐ CI088 £1.50
☐ CI089 £1.50
☐ CI090 £1.50
☐ CI091 £1.50
☐ CI092 £1.50
☐ CI093 £1.50
☐ CI094 £1.50
☐ CI095 £1.50

☐ CI096 £1.50
☐ CI097 £1.50
☐ CI098 £1.50
☐ CI099 £1.50
☐ CI100 £1.50
☐ CI101 £1.50
☐ CI102 £1.50
☐ CI103 £1.50
☐ CI104 £1.50
☐ CI105 £1.50
☐ CI106 £1.50
☐ CI107 £1.50
☐ CI109 £1.50
☐ CI109 £1.50
☐ CI110 £1.50
☐ CI111 £1.50
☐ CI112 £1.50
☐ CI113 £1.50
☐ CI114 £1.50

☒ CI115 n/a
☐ CI116 £1.50
☐ CI117 £1.50
☐ CI118 £1.50
☐ CI119 £1.50
☐ CI120 £1.50
☐ CI121 £1.50
☐ CI122 £1.50
☐ CI123 £1.50
☐ CI124 £1.50
☐ CI125 £1.50
☐ CI126 £1.50
☐ CI127 £1.50
☐ CI128 £1.50
☐ CI129 £1.50
☐ CI130 £1.50
☐ CI131 £1.50
☐ CI132 £1.50
☐ CI133 £1.50

☐ CI134 £1.50
☐ CI135 £1.50
☐ CI136 £1.50
☐ CI137 £1.50
☐ CI138 £1.50
☐ CI139 £1.50
☐ CI140 £1.50
☐ CI141 £1.50
☐ CI142 £1.50
☐ CI143 £1.50
☐ CI144 £1.50
☐ CI145 £1.50
☐ CI146 £1.50
☐ CI147 £1.50
☐ CI148 £1.50
☐ CI149 £1.50
☐ CI150 £1.50
☐ CI151 £1.50
☐ CI152 £1.50

☐ CI153 £1.50
☐ CI154 £1.50
☐ CI155 £1.50
☐ CI156 £1.50
☐ CI157 £1.50
☐ CI158 £1.50
☐ CI159 £1.50
☐ CI160 £1.50
☐ CI161 £1.50
☐ CI162 £1.50
☐ CI163 £1.50
☐ CI164 £1.50
☐ CI165 £1.50
☐ CI166 £1.50
☐ CI167 £1.50
☐ CI168 £1.50
☐ CI169 £1.50
☐ CI170 £1.50
☐ CI171 £1.50

☐ CI172 £1.50
☐ CI173 £1.50
☐ CI174 £1.50
☐ CI175 £1.50
☐ CI176 £1.50
☐ CI177 £1.50
☐ CI178 £1.50
☐ CI179 £1.50
☐ CI180 £1.95
☐ CI181 £1.95
☐ CI182 £1.95
☐ CI183 £1.95
☐ CI184 £1.95
☐ CI185 £1.95
☐ CI186 £1.95
☐ CI187 £1.95
☐ CI188 £1.95
☐ CI189 £1.95
☐ CI190 £1.95

☐ CI191 £1.95
☐ CI192 £1.95
☐ CI193 £1.95
☐ CI194 £1.95
☐ CI195 £1.95
☐ CI196 £1.95
☐ CI197 £1.95
☐ CI198 £1.95
☐ CI199 £1.95
☐ CI200 £2.95
☐ CI201 £2.99
☐ CI202 £2.99
☐ CI203 £2.99
☐ CI204 £TBA
☐ CI205 £TBA
☐ CI206 £TBA
☐ CI207 £TBA
☐ CI208 £TBA
☐ CI209 £TBA

Column Totals £ .00 £ .00 £ .00 £ .00 £ .00 £ .00 £ .00 £ .00 £ .00 £ .00 £ .00

☐ Cheque enclosed (payable to Comics International) for £___.__ for ___ ticked issues.
☐ Please debit my card (as detailed below) the sum of £___.__ for ___ ticked issues.
VISA/MASTERCARD/SWITCH card number ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐
Start: ___ / ___ Exp: ___ / ___ Security numbers (last 3 on back) _____ Issue No. (debit cards only) __

PayPal: sales@comicsinternational.co.uk *Outside the UK: Please add £1 per issue (airmail), 50p (seamail)*

NAME..
ADDRESS...
....
....

SHOULD YOU NOT WISH TO DAMAGE THIS MAGAZINE, A PHOTOCOPY OR FACSIMILE OF THIS COUPON MAY BE USED

Directory

An at-a-glance reference guide to everything that counts in comics

Internet Listings

Comics creators

Jessica Abel	www.artbabe.com
Neal Adams	www.nealadams.com
Kyle Baker	www.kylebaker.com
Leo Baxendale	www.reaper.co.uk
Brian Michael Bendis	www.jinxworld.com
Mike Carey	www.mikecarey.net
John Cassaday	www.johncassaday.com
Alex de Campi	www.alexdecampi.com
Darren Chandler	www.darrenchandler.com
Andy Diggle	www.andydiggle.com
Chuck Dixon	www.dixonverse.com
Will Eisner	www.willeisner.com
Warren Ellis	www.warrenellis.com
Jock	www.jockonline.co.uk
Francis Lee	www.francislee.co.uk
Mark Millar	www.millarworld.tv
Grant Morrison	www.grant-morrison.com
Michael Avon Oeming	www.mike-oeming.com
Alex Ross Art	www.alexrossart.com
John Watson	www.johnwatsonart.com
Barry Windsor-Smith	www.barrywindsor-smith.com
Brian Wood	www.brianwood.com

Comics publishers

Abstract Studios	www.strangersinparadise.com
AC Comics	www.accomics.com
AiT/Planet Lar	www.astronautsintrouble.com
Antarctic Press	www.antarctic-press.com
Beyond Starlight	www.beyondstarlight.com
Dark Horse	www.darkhorse.com
DC Comics	www.dccomics.com
Devil's Due Publishing	www.devilsdue.net
Drawn and Quarterly	www.drawnandquarterly.com
Dynamic Forces	www.dynamicforces.com
Fanfare/Ponent Mon	www.ponentmon.com
Fantagraphics	www.fantagraphics.com
Harris Comics	www.vampirella.com
Heavy Metal	www.heavymetal.com
IDW Publishing	www.idwpublishing.com
Image	www.imagecomics.com
Knockabout Comics	www.knockabout.com
Markosia	www.markosia.org.uk
Marvel Comics	www.marvel.com
Oni Press	www.onipress.com
Panini UK	www.paninionline.com
Tokyopop (USA)	www.tokyopop.com
Tokyopop (UK)	www.tokyopop.co.uk
Top Cow Comics	www.topcow.com
TwoMorrows	www.twomorrows.com
2000 AD	www.2000ADonline.com
Viz (USA)	www.viz.com
Viz (UK)	www.viz.co.uk
Wizards Keep	www.wizards-keep.com

Manga and anime

AD Vision	www.advfilms.com
MVM	www.mvm-uk.co.uk
United Publications	www.up1.co.uk

OTAKU.CO.UK

Secure online shopping for the latest anime, manga and game collectables direct from Japan ... www.otaku.co.uk

Downloadable software

PANELSYS

The ultimate panelologist's database system for organising your prized collection! Take a free trial today ... www.panelsys.com

PANELOLOGIST

Comprehensive comics cataloguing software available for only £4.99. Download a free trial today or buy online ... www.panelologist.com

On-line auctions

COMIC BOOK POSTAL AUCTIONS

Ten successful years specialising in Golden & Silver Age, artwork and vintage UK comics ... www.compalcomics.com

Heritage Comics Auctions	www.heritagecomics.com

Fantasy art and books

THE DRAGONS GALLERY

'Shop online' for original comic art, lithos, manga, fantasy and gothic art ... www.thedragonsgallery.co.uk

New and back issue dealers

Ace Comics	www.acecomics.co.uk
Cinebook	www.cinebook.com

COLMORE COMICS

Quality Silver Age and Bronze Age on the UK's newest state-of-the-art website! ... www.colmorecomics.com

COMIC BIZ

"Britain's favourite comicbook company" Over 250,000 items for sale ... www.comic-biz.com

COMIC CAVE

Over 25% discount on all new comics. 20% discount on Previews merchandise. £5 maximum p&p ... www.comiccave.co.uk

COMIX-SHOP.CO.UK

Hot comics, new imports, fast service, nice prices... Go on, take a peek ... www.comix-shop.co.uk

DOMAR'S DOMAIN

My hobby is selling comics. My business is selling soul records. Find thousands cheap ... www.domarrecords.co.uk

86TH FLOOR COMICS

Advance import comics and merchandise. Comprehensive, easy-to-use monthly catalogues! ... www.86thfloor.com

EPIC HEROES

Comics, toys, DVDS, posters, games, CCG. All available to order online. Next day delivery ... www.epicheroes.com

GOLDUST COMICS

Fantastic range of Golden, Silver and Bronze Age comics on our easy-to-use website ... www.goldustcomics.com

INCOGNITO

Access over 500,000 comics on the UK's fastest and funkiest comics website ... www.incognitocomics.co.uk

Krypton Komics	www.kryptonkomics.com
Limited Edition	www.limited-ed.com

MEGA-CITY COMICS

Largest graphic novel catalogue in the country – fast and easy online shopping ... www.megacitycomics.co.uk

Mighty World of Comicana	www.comicana.com
OK Comics	www.okcomics.co.uk
Page 45	www.page45.com

PHIL-COMICS AUCTIONS

Vintage British comics and annuals. We buy outright and commission sales. The Beano & Dandy Collectors' Club. www.phil-comics.com

QUICKSILVER COMICS

The specialist Silver and Bronze Age site. Over 100,000 items listed, all with cover images ... www.qscomics.com

SILVER ACRE COMICS

Over 900,000 comics in stock, 110,000 different items listed online ... www.silveracre.com

30th CENTURY COMICS

Golden Age, comprehensive Silver and Bronze Age and 15,000 British comics all listed ... www.30thcenturycomics.co.uk

On-line comics companies:

By popular demand, **Comics International** now runs an at-a-glance overview of the major sites for on-line comics collectors and creators. Have your company listed for only £5 (US $8) a month. Bookable in six-issue blocks, companies wishing to be included should send £30 or US $40 (UK: please add £5.25 to cover VAT) with trading name and website address.

◆ Major companies requiring bold and boxed entries should send £60 + £10.50 VAT per six-issue series, US $80 (£10/$16 per issue) and may add three lines of descriptive copy. Cheques and international money orders should be made payable to Comics International and sent to:

Comics International, PO Box 9844, Colchester, Essex CO1 9EE

Alternatively, payment can be made by credit card, call: 0(11 44) 1322 337040 or e-mail details to: editorial@comcis-international.co.uk

Retail Index

Key to the abbreviations used:

imp – air imported new issues
back – back issues stocked
gn – graphic novels
tpbk – trade paperbacks
STO – standing order service (new comics reserved)
s-p – small press and fanzines
ind – independent comics
u/g – underground comix
prl – peripherals/supplies
RPG – role playing games
CCG – customisable card games
merch – trading cards, videos, t-shirts, posters, etc

No websites, this is a shop guide

Central London

Avalon Comics, 143 Lavender Hill, Battersea, London SW11 5QJ. Mon-Thurs 10-5.45; Fri 10-6.30; Sat 9.30-5.30; Sun 11-3.30 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, CCG, merch) 020 7924 3609

Book & Comic Exchange, 14 Pembridge Road, Notting Hill Gate, London W11. Mon-Sun 10-8. Nothing legal refused! (back, ind, u/g) 020 7229 8420

Forbidden Planet Megastore, 179 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8JR. Mon-Wed 10-7; Thurs 10-8; Sat 10-7; Sun 12-6 (imp, back, gn, STO, s-p, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, sci-fi/fantasy, books, video/DVD, games, mags, toys) 020 7420 3666

Gosh!, 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PH (opposite British Museum). Mon-Wed 10-6; Thurs-Fri 10-7; Sat-Sun 10-6 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, foreign, largest range newspaper strip compilations in UK) 020 7636 1011

Mega-City Comics, 18 Inverness Street, Camden Town, London NW1 7HJ. Mon-Wed 10-6; Thurs-Fri 10-7; Sat-Sun 10-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV, fantasy/horror, body art, subculture)020 7485 9320

Mighty World of Comicana, 237 Shaftsbury Avenue, London WC2H 8EH. Mon-Wed 10.30-6.30; Thurs-Sat 10-7; Sun 10-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, film/TV/fantasy) 020 7836 5630

Orbital, 148 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0LB. Mon-Sat 10.30-7; Sun 11-5 (imp, back, gn, STO, manga, toys, Transformers) 020 7240 7672

Outer London

A Place in Space, 101 Church Street, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1RN. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, prl, merch, sci-fi, original art) 020 8686 2400

Atomic Comics, 1112 High Rd, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex RM6 4AH. Mon-Tues 10.30-5.30; Wed 1-5.30; Thurs-Fri 10.30-6; Sat 10-6 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, u/g, prl, RPG, CCG, merch, film/TV, art books, Games Workshop, toys, kits) 020 8597 8547

moved **Calamity Comics**, 17-19 Springfield Road, Harrow HA1 1QF. Mon-Fri 10-6 (Thurs until 7); Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, prl, RPG, CCG, merch, jokes, board games) 020 8427 3831

Forbidden Planet, 175 North End, Croydon CR0 1TP. Mon-Wed 10-6; Thurs 10-7; Fri 10-6; Sat 9.30-6. (back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, u/g, CCG, merch) 020 8688 7190

Krypton Komics, 94 Blackhorse Lane, Walthamstow, London E17 6AA Tues-Wed 11-6; Thurs 10.30-7; Fri 10.30-6; Sat 10-6 Nearest Tube: Black Horse Road on Victoria line. (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind) 020 8527 7558

Piranha, 3 Zurich House, 299 High Street, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1LG. Mon-Wed 10-6; Thurs 10-7; Fri-Sat 10-6; Sun 11-3 (imp, back, gn, STO, merch, prl) 020 8915 0858

They Walk Among Us, 26 Red Lion St, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1RW. Mon-Wed 9.30-5.30; Thurs 9.30-6; Fri-Sat 9.30-5.30; Sun 11-4. (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, fantasy/sci-fi horror, subculture) 020 8948 8476

30th Century Comics, 18 Lower Richmond Road, London SW15 1JP. Mon-Wed 10.30-6; Thurs-Fri 10.30-7; Sat 10.30-6; Sun 11-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, Gold/Silver/Bronze Age specialists, British comics/annuals, books) 020 8788 2052

South East

Ace Comics, 63/64 High Street, Colchester, Essex. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch) 01206 561912

Ace Comics, 324-325 Chartwell North, Top Floor, Victoria Plaza, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 5SR. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch) 01702 613021

The American Comic Shop, 1 Church Street, Chatham, Kent ME4 4BS (off High St). Mon-Fri 10-5.30 (Tues to 5); Sat 9-5.30. (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, action figures) 01634 817410

moved **Calamity Comics**, 162 High St, Watford WD17 2EG. Mon-Fri 10-5.30 (Thurs until 7); Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, prl, RPG, CCG, merch, jokes, board games) 01923 249293

Cartoon Shop, 19 East Square, Basildon, Essex SS14 1HT. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, RPG, merch) 01268 534194

Central City Comics, 4 Eagle Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 1JB. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, foreign) 01473 233017

Comic Showcase, 19-20 St Clements Street, Oxford OX4 1AB. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch) 01865 723680

Comix-shop.co.uk, 7a High Street, Maidenhead SL6 1JN. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, tpbk, gn, merch, CCG, toys) 01628 777998

Dave's Comic Shop, 5 Sydney Street, Brighton, Sussex BN1 4EN. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.45; Sun 11-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g) 01273 691012

Forbidden Planet, 60 Burleigh Street, Cambridge CB1 1DJ. Mon-Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, CCG, merch, videos, sci-fi/fantasy books, film/TV magazines) 01223 301666

Forbidden Planet, 44 The Priory Centre, Dartford, Kent DA1 2HS. Mon-Wed 10.30-5.30; Thurs-Sat 10-5.30 (back, gn, ind, PRG, CCG, merch) 01322 224837

Incognito Comic Shop, 1-2 The Friars, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2AS. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, film/TV) 01227 785898

new **Limited Edition**, Units 61-62, Stevenage Indoor Market, Stevenage. Wed-Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind) **01438 364083**

Off World: The Sci-Fi Store, 142 Market Halls, Arndale Centre, Luton LU1 2TP. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, STO, s-p, CCG, merch, Star Trek/Wars, sci-fi collectables) 01582 736256

Slough Computers, 50 Village Shopping Centre, Slough, Berks SL1 1HP. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, STO, ind, cards, second hand video games) 01753 521594

Time Trek, 46 High Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1EG. Mon-Wed/Fri 9.30-5.30; Thurs 10-8; Sat 10-5.30; Sun 10-4 (imp, back, ind, gn, merch, STO, CCG, prl, sf TV/film) 020 8313 0677

Whatever Comics, 2 Burgate Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2HH. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, kits) 01227 453226

Whatever Comics, 5 Middle Row, High Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1TF. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, kits) 01622 681041

Midlands

Abstract Sprocket, 29 St Benedicts Street, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 4PF. Mon-Sat 10-5 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch)01603 624410

Astral Gypsy, Workshop 7, Canal Basin, St Nicholas Street, Coventry CV1 4LY. Tues, Thurs-Sat 10-6; Wed 12-8 (gn, tpbk, Japanese imp, manga, art books and materials)024 7655 1912

Close Encounters, 59 Midland Road, Bedford MK10 1PW. Mon-Fri 10-6; Sat 9-6; Sun 11-5 (imp, back, gn, merch, video, DVDs, action figures, t-shirts, trading cards)01234 270777

Comic Culture, The Mall, 257-259 High Street, Lincoln LN2 1HX. Mon-Sat 10-5 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, RPG, CCG, prl) 01522 546611

Forbidden Planet, 31 Cross Cheaping, Coventry CV1 1HF. Mon-Wed 9.30-6; Thurs 9.30-7; Fri-Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, CCG, merch, film/TV)024 76229672

Forbidden Planet Superstore, 38 Priory Queensway, Birmingham B4 7LA. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (Thurs-Fri to 6) (imp, back, gn, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, books, games, mags, kits, toys, videos) 0121 236 3026

FPI Derby, 1/2 The Corn Exchange, Albert St, Derby DE1 2DS. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30; Sat 9-5.30; Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, rock/film TV memorabilia, merch, video games) 01332 206606

FPI Hanley, 52 Stafford Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 1JB. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30; Sat 9-5.30; Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, rock memorabilia, alchemy metalware) 01782 279294

FPI Leicester, 23 Silver Street, Leicester LE1 5EU. Mon-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5.30; Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, foreign, alchemy metalware) 0116 2515266

FPI Nottingham, 19-23 Friar Lane, Nottingham NG1 6DA. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30; Sat 9-5.30; Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, foreign, rock memorabilia, alchemy metalware) 01159 484122

FPI Wolverhampton, 23 Victoria Street, Wolverhampton WV1 3NP. Mon-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5.30; Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, rock memorabilia, alchemy metalware) 01902 717440

Nostalgia & Comics (FPI), 14-16 Smallbrook, Queensway, Birmingham. Mon-Thurs 9.15-5.45; Fri-Sat 9.15-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch) 0121 643 0143

Page 45, 9 Market Street, Nottingham NG1 6HY. Mon-Sat 9-6. (imp, back, gn, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, manga) 0115 950 8045

Phoenix Comix, 29 Abington Square, Northampton NN1 4AE. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, RPG, CCG, action figures) 01604 602311

Travelling Man, c/o Gamestation, 1st Floor, 16 Angel Row, Nottingham NG1 6HL. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, action figures, miniatures) 0115 950 9231

North West

All-American, 102 Newport Street, Bolton BL3 6AB. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, gn, STO, merch, Star Wars, WWF, action figures, S/Age, videos, records, CDs) 01204 366553

Batcave, 39 Penny Street, Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 6HQ. Mon-Sat 10-5 (imp, back, gn, STO, RPG, CCG, merch) 01254 667488

Forbidden Planet, 92 Bold Street, Liverpool L1 4HY. Mon-Wed 9.30-5.30; Thurs 9.30-7; Fri-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, CCG, merch, film/TV, sci-fi horror) 0151 707 1491

Forbidden Planet Megastore (FPI), 65 Oldham Street, Piccadilly, Manchester M1 1JR. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30; Sun 12-5 (imp, back, STO, RPG, CCG, merch, books, toys, film/TV, manga) 0161 839 4777

Imagination Station, 41 Bank St, Carlisle, Cumbria CA3 8HJ. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch)

Millennium Comics, 4 Church Rd, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 5NT. Mon-Tues 10-5; Thurs-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5 (imp, back, STO, s-p, RPG, merch, action figures, toys) 01606 49255

Thunderbooks, 332 Lytham Road, Blackpool, Lancashire FY4 1DW. Mon/Tues/Thurs-Sat (Sundays in June-Oct only) 10-5.30; Wed 1-3.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, media collectors' items) 01253 348321

Thunderbooks II, 116 Friargate, Preston, Lancashire PR1 9EE. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, RPG, merch) 01772 204287

Time Tunnel, 13 Earle Street, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 2BS. Mon and Wed-Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, merch, film/TV, action figures, videos, model kits) 01270 215496

Travelling Man, 4 Dale Street, Manchester M1 1JW. (imp, back, tpbk, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, CCG, merch, prl) 0161 237 1877

Worlds Apart (FPI), 58-60 Lime Street (city centre), Liverpool. Mon-Sat 10-6; Sun 11-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, film) 0151 707 0839

North East

Destination Venus, 5 Westminster Arcade, Parliament St, Harrogate HG1 2RN. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, gn, tpbk, prl, merch) 01423 502300

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 30 Eastgate, The Headrow, Leeds LS2 7JL. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, film/TV books/mags, posters, toys, kits, merch, stills, Star Trek/Dr Who) 0113 242 6325

Forbidden Planet, 59 Grainger Street, Newcastle NE1 5JE. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV mags, fantasy/sci-fi books, videos) 0191 261 9173

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 41 Dundas Street, Middlesbrough TS1 1HR. Mon-Wed 9.30-5.30; Thurs 9.30-7; Fri-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, gn, s-p, STO, ind, u/g, prl, RPG, CCG, merch, video, action figures, film/TV, manga) 01642 248889

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 12 Matilda Street, off the Moor, Sheffield S1 4QD. Mon-Tues 10-5.30; Wed-Fri 10-6; Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, original art, model kits, sci-fi/fantasy books, horror magazines, newspaper strip books) 0114 276 9475

The Last Picture Show, 38-39 The Lanes, The Oasis, Meadowhall Centre, Sheffield S9 1EP. Mon-Thurs 10-8; Fri 10-9; Sat 9-7, Sun 11-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, film/TV/rock memorabilia) 0114 256 9604

Millennium Comics, Stall 141, Warrington Indoor Market. Mon-Sat 9-5 (imp, back, STO, s-p, RPG, merch, action figures, toys) 01925 575657

OK Comics, 19 Thorntons Arcade, Briggate, Leeds LS1 6LQ. (imp, back, gn, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, prl) 0113 2469366

Sheffield Space Centre, 33 The Wicker, Sheffield. Mon-Tues/Thurs-Sat 10-5 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, merch, Star Trek specialists)0114 275 8905

Travelling Man, Unit 8/9, The Corn Exchange, Call Lane, Leeds LS1 7BR. Mon-Thurs 10-5.30; Fri-Sat 9-5.30; Sun 11-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, action figures) 0113 242 7227

Travelling Man, 43 Grainger Street, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE1 5JE. (imp,

Direct Market Retailers:

The Retail Index is THE retail reference source for collectors, creators, publishers and journalists and entries are only £6 a month (+ VAT within UK). Payable in advance in six-issue blocks: send £36 (+ £6.30 VAT) plus shop information.

Mail Order Dealers:

The Mail Order Index is the industry's most cost-effective and highly-targeted way to reach a dedicated audience. It costs only £4 per entry per issue (+ VAT within UK). Payable in advance in six-issue blocks: send £24 (+ £4.20 VAT) per category plus entry information.

Comics International, PO Box 9844, Colchester, Essex CO1 9EE

Cheques should be made payable to Comics International. Payment can also be made by credit card or PayPal.
E-mail: editorial@comics-international.co.uk Tel: 01322 377040

The letters **(FPI)** after various entries indicates that the company is part of **Forbidden Planet International** Ltd back, tpbk, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, CCG, merch, prl) 0191 261 4993

Travelling Man, 54 Goodramgate, York YO1 2LF. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, action figures) 01904 628787

2Tone Comics, 40 Market Street, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire HX7 6AA. Wed-Sat 10.30-5.30; Sun 10.30-4 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, merch, CGC) 01422 845666

West Country

American Dream, 72 Walcot Street, Bath BA1 5BD. Mon-Fri 10-5; Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, original art, hobby kits, CDs) 01225 424881

American Graffiti, 78 Church Lane, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 1BH. Mon-Sat 9-5 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch)01271 325740

Area 51, 230 Gloucester Road, Horfield, Bristol BS7 8NZ. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, original art) 0117 924 4655

Automattic Comics, Unit 2, 17 Pickwick Road, Corsham SN13 9BQ. Mon-Tues 12-5; Thurs-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch) 01249 701647

Collector's Choice, 45 Southgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1TX. Mon-Sat 9-5 (S/Age, British, vintage mags, toys, memorabilia) 01452 410232

Forbidden Planet Megastore, Units 4-5 Clifton Heights, Triangle West, Clifton, Bristol BS8 1EJ. Mon-Wed 9.30-5.30; Thurs 9.30-7; Fri 9.30-5.30; Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV magazines, subculture) 0117 929 7767

Forbidden Planet, 43-45 East St, Southampton SO14 3HN. Mon-Wed 9.30-5.30; Thurs 9.30-6; Fri 9.30-5.30; Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV) 023 80230991

Ian's Books & Comics, 195a Albert Rd, Southsea, Portsmouth PO4 0JP (by Tesco). Mon-Tues/Thurs-Fri 10.30-5.15 ; Sat 10-5.15 (imp, back, tpbk, STO, s-p, prl, toys) 023 92422731

Paradox Comics, 17 High Street, Poole, Dorset BH15 1AB. Mon-Fri 10.30-5; Sat 10-5 (imp, back, gn, STO, ind, merch, videos) 01202 661346

Travelling Man, 8 Park Street, Bristol BS1 5NF. (imp, back, tpbk, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, CCG, merch, prl) 0117 925 8833

Isle of Wight

Cheap Thrills, Unit 8, Central Market, Scarrots Lane, Newport PO30 1JD. Mon-Fri 10.30-5.15; Sat 9.30-5 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, u/g, prl, merch) 01983 530570

Wales

Cardiff's Comic Guru Presents!, 20-22 Wyndham Arcade, Cardiff CF10 1FJ. Mon-Wed 10-6; Thurs 10-9; Fri-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, prl, CCG, merch) 029 202 29119

Cardiff Fantasy Centre, 1st Floor, Jacobs Market, West Canal Wharf, Cardiff. Sat 9.30-4.30 (imp, back, STO; est. over 20 years) 029 206 58184 (eve)

Comix Shoppe, 13 Shoppers Walk, Swansea SA1 3AY. Mon-Fri 10-5; Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, CCG, merch, anime, Games Workshop) 01792 642097

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 5 Duke Street, Cardiff. Mon-Wed 10-5.30; Thurs 10-6.30; Fri 10-5.30; Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, sci-fi fantasy horror books, Star Trek/Star Wars) 029 202 28885

Negative Zone, Provision Market Gallery, High Street, Newport, Gwent NP9 1DD. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, back, gn, STO, s-p, ind) 01633 222159

Scotland

Asylum Books & Games, 29 Adelphi, Aberdeen AB11 5B2. Mon 10-8; Tues-Wed 10-6; Thurs 10-8; Fri-Sat 10-6; Sun 12-5 (imp, back, STO, new second hand RPG, CCG, books, original art) 01224 574637

Black Hole Comic Shop, Unit 3, 5 Victoria Road, Dundee DD1 1ER. Mon-Thurs 10-5; Fri-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, second hand records, CDs, videos) 01382 221037

City Centre Comics, 51 Parnie Street, Glasgow G1 5LU. Tues-Sat 10-5 (back) 0141 552 2208

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 12 Schoolhill, Aberdeen AB10 1JX. Mon-Wed 10-6; Thur 10-7; Fri 10-6; Sat 9.30-5.30; Sun 12-5 (imp, gn, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, prl, CCG, merch) 01224 622131

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 40-41 South Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1LL. Mon-Wed 10-5.30; Thurs 10-6.30; Fri-Sat 10-5.30; Sun 12-5. (imp, STO, s-p, ind, merch, foreign) 0131 558 8226

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 168 Buchanan St, Glasgow G1 2LW. Mon-Sat 10-5.30; Sun 12-5 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch)0141 331 1215

Plan 9, 9 Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen AB25 1NE. Mon-Wed 10-5; Thurs 10-6; Fri-Sat 10-5; Sun 1-4. (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, WWF, merch, sci-fi) 01224 624467

Red Hot Comics, Block D Unit 7, Glenwood Business Park, Glenwood Place, Glasgow G45 9UH. Mon-Sat 11.30-5.30; Sun 12-5 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, CCG, merch) 0141 630 0049

Northern Ireland

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 52-54 Ann Street, Belfast BT1 4EG Mon-Wed 9-5.30; Thurs 9-8.30; Fri-Sat 9-5.30; Sun 1-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch) 028 90438744

Ace Comics, Kiosk E, Level 2, Richmond Centre, Derry, Londonderry BT48 6PE. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, RPG, CCG, merch) 02871 369787

Irish Republic

Forbidden Planet (FPI), 5-6 Crompton Quay, Dublin 2. Mon-Sat 10-6 (Thur to 7); Sun 12-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, UK, gn) 0035 3167 10688

Sub-City Comics, 2 Exchequer Street, Dublin 2. (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, prl, RPG, CCG, merch) 0035 3167 71902

Sub-City Comics, Unit 10, Level 1, Corbettcourt Centre, Eyre Square, Galway. (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, prl, RPG, CCG, merch) 0035 3915 65994

The 3rd Place, Crow Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2. (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, s-p, ind, prl, RPG, CCG, merch) 0035 3163 36965

New York USA

Forbidden Planet (FPI associate), 840 Broadway (at 13th St, NY 10003. Mon-Sat 10-10; Sun 12-10. (new, ind, back, RPG, merch, fantasy) 001 212 473 1576

Mail Order Index

Key to abbreviations used:
w/s – wholesale available
dis – bulk discount terms
cat – phone/write for catalogue
s-cat – sae for catalogue
wants – wants lists accepted
s-wants – sae with wants lists
CoBRA – Comic Book Retailers' mail order protection scheme
cc – major credit cards accepted

Golden Age

Generally acknowledged as being published between 1938 and 1945, but herein designated to cover all pre-Silver Age US comics.

Comic Biz, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (wants, CoBRA, cc) 020 8446 3464

Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd, 40-42 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

Goldust Comics, 67 St John's Wood High Street, London NW8 7NL (high grade, cat, wants, cc) 020 8341 5558

Quality Comics, 345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ (CoBRA, cc)

Silver Acre Comics, PO Box 114, Chester CH4 8WQ (s-wants, cc) 01244 680048 fax: 680686

Silver Age

Accepted as starting in 1955 with DC's superhero rebirth through ***Detective Comics** #225 (introducing the Martian Manhunter) and **Showcase** #4 (introducing the Barry Allen Flash). Herein covering titles up to late 1960s.*

Colmore Comics & Collectibles, Beresford House, 23 Shawbank Road, Lakeside, Redditch B98 8YN (cc, CGC) 01564 742575

Comic Biz, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (wants, CoBRA, cc) 020 8446 3464

Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd, 40-42 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

Goldust Comics, 67 St John's Wood High Street, London NW8 7NL (cat, wants, cc) 020 8341 5558

Quality Comics, 345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ (CoBRA, cc)

Quicksilver Comics, 19 Thorntons Arcade, Leeds LS1 6LQ (s-cat, dis, wants, cc, CoBRA) 01132340111

Silver Acre Comics, PO Box 114, Chester CH4 8WQ (s-wants, cc) 01244 680 048 fax: 680 686

Post-Silver Age

Comics from 1970 to date.

Planet Warehouse (FPI) *formerly Comics Warehouse* PO Box 600, 8 Galliford Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD (w/s, cat, cc, CoBRA) 01621 877244

Quality Comics, 345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ (CoBRA, cc)

Advance Imports

US comics are not generally available in UK newsagents. The following offer air-shipped copies from all of the major US publishers.

Ace Comics, 63/64 High Street, Colchester, Essex (wants, cat, CoBRA, cc) 01206 561912

Chapter 12, 2 Prospect Place, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 1LE (wants, s-cat, CoBRA) 01843 860354

86th Floor Comics, 6 Shipley Common Lane, Ilkeston, Derbyshire DE7 8TR (dis, cat, cc) 0115 9443009

Forbidden Planet Megastore, 179 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8JR (s-cat cc) 020 7420 3666

Gosh! Strips by Mail, 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PH 020 7636 1011

Planet Warehouse (FPI) *formerly Comics Warehouse*, PO Box 600, 8 Galliford Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD (w/s, cat, cc, CoBRA) 01621 877244

Red Hot Comics, The Warehouse Block D Unit 8, Glenwood Business Park, Glenwood Place, Glasgow G45 9UH (CoBRA, w/s, dis, wants, cc) 0141 630 0049

Hot Comics

Key titles, first issues or first appearances of major characters – investment titles for speculators.

A Place in Space, 101 Church Street, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1RN (wants, cc, dis) 020 8686 2400

Limited Editions

Comic Biz, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (CoBRA, cc, ashçans, s&n) 020 8446 3464

General Fantasy

Multi-media fantasy, specialists in TV, film, trading cards and toys.

Forbidden Planet Mail Order, 144 Southwark Street, London SE1 0UP (cat) 020 7803 1900 fax: 1901

Sci-Fi Merchandise Direct (FPI) and **Gear for Games (FPI)** Maldon, Essex CM9 4XD (cat) 01621 877222

Alternative & Non-fiction

Biographical and slice-of-life comicbooks and graphic novels – the real mainstream...

Gosh! Strips by Mail, 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PH (wants) 020 7636 1011

Knockabout Comics, PO Box 53362, London NW10 9YX (w/s, s-cat, cc) 020 8273 0077

Page 45, 9 Market Street, Nottingham NG1 6HY 0115 9508045

Old British Titles

The Book Palace, Jubilee House, Bedwardine Road, Crystal Palace, London SE19 3AP 020 8768 0022

Comic Biz, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (wants, CoBRA, cc) 020 8446 3464

Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd, 40-42 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

30th Century Comics, 18 Lower Richmond Road, Putney, London SW15 1JP (cat, wants, CoBRA, cc) 020 8788 2052

Weird Fantasy, 19 Decoy Road, Ormesby, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR29 3LG (s-cat, s-wants, annuals)

Original Art

The Book Palace, Jubilee House, Bedwardine Road, Crystal Palace, London SE19 3AP 020 8768 0022

Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd, 40-42 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

Silver Acre Comics, PO Box 114, Chester CH4 8WQ (s-wants, cc) 01244 680048 fax: 680686

Comics Auctions

phil-comics auctions, PO Box 3433, Brighton BN50 9JA 01273 673462

Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd, 40-42 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

Trading Cards

Beyond Comics, 76 Harlescott Road, Nunhead, London SE15 3BZ (s-cat, s-wants, CoBRA) 020 7564 4213

John McDonald: Non-Sport Trading Cards, 20 Alder Grove, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire ML5 3PT (cat, wants) 01236 433358

Merchandise

Comics, film and TV-related t-shirts, posters, video games, badges, toys, action figures, etc.

Sci-Fi Merchandise Direct (FPI) and **Gear for Games (FPI)** Maldon, Essex CM9 4XD (cat) 01621 877222

Peripherals

Backing boards, protective bags, storage boxes, etc.

The Book Palace, Jubilee House, Bedwardine Road, Crystal Palace, London SE19 3AP 020 8768 0022

Just Comics, 65 Station Road, Warboys, Huntingdon PE28 2TH (w/s only, CollectorLine™ distributor) 01487 824895 fax: 824896

Planet Warehouse (FPI) *formerly Comics Warehouse*, PO Box 600, 8 Galliford Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD (w/s, cat, cc, CoBRA) 01621 877244

Distributors

The following companies bulk air import US and European comics, graphic novels and related items on a weekly basis for bookshop and comic shop distribution.

The Book Palace, Jubilee House, Bedwardine Road, Crystal Palace, London SE19 3AP (gn, art books, remainders, film/TV, popular culture) 020 8768 0022

Diamond Comic Distributors, 2nd Floor, Warton House, 150 High Street, London E15 2NP (US & European comics/related items) 020 8536 5730 fax: 5736

Turnaround Publisher Services, Unit 3, Olympia Trading Estate, Coburg Road, Wood Green, London N22 6TZ (gn, art books, film/TV, popular culture, incorporating Red Route Distributors) 020 8829 3000

Comics Publishers

North America

Unlike Europe, North American publishers invariably favour indie status to that of being labelled small press. This results in there being hundreds of comics publishers.

While circulations vary immensely, the following are the continent's major comicbook producers with titles printing between 5,000 and 150,000 copies. Contact telephone numbers are given where readily available. Website details can be found on the first page of this directory section.

Abstract Studios, PO Box 271487, Houston, TX 77277-1487 (Strangers in Paradise)

AC Comics, PO Box 521216, Longwood, FL 32752-1216 (adventure titles, Golden Age superhero and western reprints)

Acclaim Comics, 1 Acclaim Plaza, Glen Cove, NY 11542 (game tie-in adventure, Valiant superhero imprint. dormant)
(00)1 516 656 5000

AIT/Planet Lar, 2034 47th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116 (graphic novels)
(00)1 415 504 7516

Alias Comics, 8367 Lemon Avenue, La Mesa, California 91941 (adventure titles)
(00)1 619 741 9930

Alternative Comics, 503 North West 37th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32609-2204 (alternative titles and graphic novels)
(00)1 352 373 6336

American Media Consumer Entertainment, 600 East Coast Avenue, Lantana, FL 33464 (Cracked) (00)1 561 586 1111

Antarctic Press, 7272 Wurzbach Road, Suite 204, San Antonio, Texas TX 78240 (adventure and US manga titles)

Archie Comics Entertainments Inc, 488 Main Avenue, Suite 300, Norwalk, CT 06851 (humour titles)
(00)1 914 381 5155

Aspen MLT, Inc, 1004 Santa Monica Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA 90401 (adventure comics)

Avatar Press, 515 N. Century Blvd, Rantoul, IL 61866 (horror and fantasy titles)
(00)1 217 893 9671

Bongo Entertainment, 1440 South Sepulveda Boulevard, 3rd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90025 (The Simpsons and Futurama and related humour titles)
(00)1 310 966 6168

Caliber Comics, 225 North Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 (black and white adventure titles) (00)1 734 462 0457

Cartoon Books, PO Box 16973, Columbus, OH43216 (Bone and related titles)

Crusade Fine Arts Ltd, PO Box 845, Bayport, NY 11705 (fantasy and adventure)
(00)1 631 472 2866

Dark Horse Comics, 10956 SE Main Street, Milwaukie, OR 97222 (adventure, licensed, US and Japanese manga)
(00)1 503 652 8815

DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, NY 10019 (adventure and humour titles, MAD, Vertigo and Paradox Press imprints)
(00)1 212 636 5400

Devil's Due Publishing, 4619 N Ravenswood Avenue, #204, Chicago, IL 60640 (adventure titles)

Drawn & Quarterly, PO Box 48056, Montreal, Quebec, H2V 4S8, Canada (black and white biographies)

Dynamic Forces, 155 Ninth Avenue, Suite E, Runnemede, NJ 08078 (variant editions and limited edition merchandise)
(00)1 856 312 1040

Dynamite Entertainment, 155 Ninth Avenue, Suite E, Runnemede, NJ 08078 (action and adventure titles)
(00)1 856 312 1040 ext 105

Fantagraphics Books, 7563 Lake City Way NE, Seattle, Washington 98115 (adventure, biographical and Eros adult titles)
(00)1 206 524 1967

Harris Comics, 1115 Broadway, 8th Floor, NY 10010 (Vampirella, fantasy and horror titles)
(00)1 212 807 7100

Heavy Metal, 100 North Village Road, Suite 12, Rockville Center, NY 11570 (adult fantasy magazines and spin-off editions)

Humanoids Publishing, PO Box 931658, Hollywood, California CA 90093 (US-European editions)

IDW Publishing, 4411 Morena Boulevard, Suite 106, San Diego, CA 92117 (adventure comics)

Image Comics, 1942 University Avenue, Suite 305, Berkeley, CA 94704 (adventure titles)
(00)1 714 2880200

Marvel Enterprises, Inc, 417 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10016 (adventure, humour and licensed titles) (00)1 212 5764000

NBM Publications, 555 Eighth Avenue, Suite 1202, New York, NY 10018 (adult fantasy graphic novels and magazines)

Oni Press, 1305 SE MLK Blvd, Suite A, Portland, OR 97214 (adventure titles)

Radio Comix, 11765 West Avenue, PMB #117, San Antonio, TX 78216 (anthropomorphic manga) (00)1 210 3487195

Shonen Jump, c/o Viz Comics, PO Box 77010, San Francisco, CA 94107 (English translated manga titles)

Slave Labor Graphics Publishing, PO Box 26427, San Jose, CA 95159-6427 (black and white fantasy titles)

Speakeasy Comics, 366 Adelaide Street E, Suite 331, Toronto, ON M5A 3X9, Canada (adventure titles)

Tokyopop, 5900 Wiltshire Boulevard, suite 2000, Los Angeles, CA 90036-5020 (manga)
(00)1 323 692 6700

Top Cow Productions Inc, 10390 Santa Monica Blvd #110, Los Angeles CA 90025 (adventure titles) (00)1 770 4276395

Top Shelf Productions, PO Box 1282, Marietta, GA 30061-1282 (alternative and biographical titles) (00)1 770 4276395

Twomorrows Publishing, 10407 Bedfordtown Drive, Raleigh, NC 27614 (comics feature and history magazines and books)
(00)1 919 449 0344
fax: 0327

Viz Media LLC, PO Box 77010, San Francisco, CA 94107 (English translated manga titles)

WaRP Graphics, 2600 South Road, Suite 44/242, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 (Elfquest and spin-off titles)

United Kingdom

The following are the country's major comics and graphic novel publishers. If calling from outside of the UK, you should drop the first 0 and replace with: 01144 (USA); 0044 (mainland Europe and Eire); 001144 (Australasia).

Abiogenesis Press, PO Box 2065, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 2WH (Strangehaven)

new **Cinebook**, 18 John Dutton Way, Kennington, TN24 9PW (graphic novels)
01233 620176

DC Thomson, 2 Albert Square, Dundee DD1 9QJ (humour and adventure titles, pocket books and annuals) 01382 223131

Dennis Publishing Ltd, 30 Cleveland Street, London W1T 4JD (humour and adventure titles, pocket books and annuals)
020 7907 6000

Eaglemoss Publications, 5 Cromwell Road, London SW7 2HR (adventure and humour titles) 020 7590 8300

Egmont Magazines Ltd, Fourth Floor, 184-192 Drummond Street, London NW1 3HP (humour, licensed and pre-school titles)
020 7380 6430

new **Fanfare**, PO Box 114, Wisbech PE13 4WF (slice-of-life graphic novels and collections) 07958 283867

Hamlyn Books, 2-4 Heron Quays, London E14 4JB (graphic novels) 020 7531 8400

John Brown Citrus Publishing, The New Boathouse, 136-142 Bramley Road, London W10 6SR (albums)
020 7565 3000

Knockabout Comics, 10 Acklam Road, London W10 5QZ (humour titles and underground comix and graphic novels)
020 8969 2945

Mam Tor Publishing, PO Box 6785, Derby DE22 1XT (adventure titles)

Markosia Enterprises, 8 Invergarry Quadrant, Thornliebank, Glasgow G46 8UG (adventure titles) 0141 620 0205

Panini Comics (UK), Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ (humour and adventure comics, Marvel licensed titles) 01892 500100

Pulp Theatre Entertainment, Mermaid Court, 1 Mermaid House, London Bridge, London SE1 1HR (adventure titles) 020 7403 0378

Rebellion Developments Ltd, The Studio, Brewer Street, Oxford OX1 1QN (Judge Dredd The Megazine, 2000 AD and related titles) 01865 792201

The Redan Company, Canon Court East, Abbey Lawn, Shrewsbury SY2 5DE (pre-school humour and licenced titles)
01743 364433

Savoy Books, 446 Wilmslow Road, Withington, Manchester M20 3BW (adult comics magazines, books and graphic novels)
0161 445 5771

Titan Entertainment Group Ltd, Titan House, 144 Southwark Street, London SE1 0UP (licensed graphic novels, books, magazines and comics) 020 7620 0200

France

The following are the country's major comics and album publishers. If phoning from the USA, the country code of 0033 becomes 011 33

Editions Albin Michel, 22 rue Huyghens, 75014 Paris (albums) (0033) 1 42 79 10 00

Casterman, 36 rue du Chemin Vert, 75011, Paris (albums and manga titles)
(0033) 1 55 28 12 00

Dargaud, 15-27 rue Moussorgski, 75895 Paris (albums and manga titles) (0033) 1 53 26 32 32
fax: 32 00

Delcourt, 54 rue d'Hauteville, 75010 Paris (albums and comics) (0033) 1 56 03 92 20
fax: 92 30

Fluide Glacial, 33 avenue du Main, BP 187, 75755 Paris (comics and albums)
(0033) 1 43 20 23 96

Glenat, 31-33 rue Ernest Renan, 92130 Issy-Les-Moulineaux (albums and manga titles)
(0033) 1 41 46 11 41
fax: 11 13

J'ai Lu, 84 rue de Grenelle, 75007 Paris (licenced Japanese manga titles)
(0033) 1 44 39 34 70

Les Humanoides Associes, 5 Passage Piver, 75011 Paris (albums) (0033) 1 49 29 88 88
fax: 88 89

Semic France, 44316 Nantes Cedex 03 (licenced comics and albums) (0033) 2 51 86 14 14

Italy

The following are the country's major comics and album publishers. If phoning from the USA, the country code of 0039 becomes 011 39

Sergio Bonelli Editore, via Buonarroti 38, 20145 Milano (black and white comics)

Cult Comics, viale Emilio Po' 380, 41100 Modena (Image and Dark Horse licensed titles)

Magic Press, Zona industriale via Ragusa 18, 00040 Pavona, Roma (Vertigo and WildStorm licensed titles)
(0039) 06 93020361

Star Comics, Strada delle Selvette 1bis/1, 06080 Bosco Perugia (comics and black and white manga titles)

Astorina S.R.I., via Boccaccio 32, 20123 Milano (Diabolik original and reprint black and white)

King Comics, via Pinerolo 3, 00182 Roma (comics)

Spain

The following are the country's major comics and album publishers. If phoning from the USA, the country code of 0034 becomes 011 34

Norma Editorial, Passeig de Sant Joan 7, 08010 Barcelona (licensed DC and Dark Horse comics and albums)
0034 93 303 68 20

Editorial Planeta-De Agostini, SA, Avda. Diagonal 662-664, 08034 Barcelona (licensed Dark Horse comics and albums)

Toutain Editor, SA, Diagonal 325, E-08009 Barcelona (licensed Marvel, Dark Horse, Chaos!, Image and manga comics and albums)
0034 93 344 06 00

Ediciones La Cúpula, Plaza de las Beatas 3, 08003 Barcelona (adult comics and albums) 0034 93 268 28 05

International Festivals

A listing of the world's major comics festivals and conventions. For further information, contact the organisers or check their websites.

July 26-29: United States

COMIC-CON INTERNATIONAL '07, San Diego Convention Center, California. Email: cci-info@comic-con.org. Tel: 001 619 491 2475. www.comic-con.org

August 9-12: United States

WIZARD WORLD CHICAGO CON 2007, Donald E. Stephens Convention Center. Email: conventions@wizarduniverse.com. Tel: 001 608 226 0200. www.wizarduniverse.com

August 24-26: Canada

FAN EXPO 2007, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Email: info@hobbystar.com. www.hobbystar.com

August 31-September 3: USA

DRAGON*CON 2007, Atlanta, Georgia. Organisers: Dragon*Con, PO Box 16459, Atlanta, GA 30321-9998. www.dragoncon.org

September 1-2: England

LONDON FILM & COMIC CON, Earls Court 1, Old Brompton Road, London SW5 9TA. 01908 671138. www.londonfilmandcomiccon.com

September 8-9: United States

BALTIMORE COMIC-CON, The Baltimore Convention Centre, One West Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. Email: cardscomicscollectables@yahoo.com. www.comicon.com/baltimore

September 28-30: Norway

RAPTUS INTERNATIONAL COMICS FESTIVAL. Organisers: Raptus Bergen Comics Festival, Box 31, 5838 Bergen, Norway. Email: raptus@raptus.no. www.raptus.no

October 12-14: Australia

SUPANOVA 2007, Sydney Olympic Park, Sydney. Email: info@supanova.com.au. www.supanova.com.au

October 13-14: Belgium

FACTS 2007, ICC Citadelpark, 9000 Gent. Organisers: Forbidden Zone, 25 Rue de Tamines, 1060 Brussels, Belgium. Tel: 0032 2 534 63 67. www.facts-convention.com

October 20-21: England

LONDON MOVIE COMIC MEDIA EXPO, ExCel Convention Centre, Royal Victoria Dock, London. Email: info@mcmexpo.net. Tel: 0870 330 7446. www.londonexpo.com

October 20-22: New Zealand

ARMAGEDDON EXPO, Auckland Aotea Centre. Email: info@pulpexpo.com. www.pulpexpo.com

November 1-4: Italy

LUCCA COMICS & GAMES. Organisers: Lucca Comics & Games, Via della Cavallerizza 11, 55100 Lucca, Italy. Tel: 0039 583 48522. www.luccacomicsandgames.com

January 24-27: France

ANGOULEME BD. Organisers: Festival International de la Bande Dessinee, 2 Place d l'Hotel de Ville, 16000 Angouleme, France. Tel: 0033 05 45 97 86 50. Email: info@bdangouleme.com. www.bdangouleme.com

March 7-9: United States

MEGACON 2008, Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Florida. Email: info@megaconcention.com. Tel: 001 727 796 5725. www.megaconvention.com

April 18-20: United States

NEW YORK COMIC-CON 2008, Jacob Javits Center, New York. Organisers Reed Exhibitions. www.nycomiccon.com

April: Australia

SUPANOVA POP CULTURE EXPO 2008, RNA Showgrounds, Gregory Terrace, Brisbane. Organisers: Supanova Pop Culture Industries. www.supanova.com.au

Classified

Advertising terms and conditions

Whether for publication or not, all advertisements must be accompanied by full name, home address and daytime phone number of advertiser.

- All private classified Wants or Announcements ads (comics or card related items only) are free of charge. Maximum 50 words, they will be printed at the publisher's discretion when space permits. *(Only one advertisement can be submitted per letter/per issue so everybody gets a chance to fit in!)*

- FOR SALE ads (and dealer wants/announcements) are charged:
(i) General announcements: Stating no issue numbers, prices or titles. Per 50 words (or part thereof) £5.00 ($7.50 US)
(ii) List ads: Including specific titles, issues and/or prices. Minimum charge, per 100 words (or part thereof) £10.00 ($15.00 US)

Full payment, to Comics International, must accompany wordage.

CI Classified, PO Box 9844, Colchester, Essex CO1 9EE

For Sale

Earth-shattering collection of **Judge Dredd/2000 AD** and other British comics and annuals, plus US Marvel and DC titles. Competitive and dirt cheap prices for a quick sale. Call Matt for list on 01276 26233 or write to 9 Copse End, Camberley, Surrey GU15 2BP.

Brits and pieces: British weeklies and annuals (1965 to 2006) for sale. **Beano**, **Beezer**, **Bunty**, **Buster**, **Dandy**, **Diana**, **Dr Who**, **Eagle**, **Lion**, **Scorcher**, **Smash**, **Sparky**, **Tiger**, **Topper**, **Transformers**, **TV21**, **2000AD**, **Valiant**, **Victor**, **Zoids** and the real **Ghostbusters**. Plus a small selection of 1940s comcis: **The Sun** and **The Comet**. **DC 100 Page Digests** 1, 9, 12, 14, 14, 24, 25, 30, 31 and 44 – all vf/nm £2.50 each. Large selection of DC, Marvel, manga, Dark Horse, Image and indies priced at 50p and 95p each. Contact Anthony Pick, 20 Grove Road, Hoylake, Wirral CH47 2DT. Or call 0151 632 4640.

Late '70s, '80s and '90s back issues for sale, mostly X-related titles from Marvel Comics, but also some Batman and Dark Horse titles as well. All in near mint condition, individually bagged. Also several collectors, signed editions available as well as some prints and collectors cards. Interested? E-mail rosseroony@gmail.com for information.

Marvel, DC, Charlton, Gold Key, Warren and more! Thousands of titles from 1960 to 1980 (some odler/newer), cents copies including many ND issues – westerns, war, horror and superheroes! Remaining UK pence copies – 75% off sale! Send a large sae for Winter 2006/7 Catalogue to Peter M. Jaques, 21 The Oaklands, Droitwich WR9 8AD.

For sale: **Amazing Spider-Man** 1 (fn/vf), **Amazing Fantasy** 15 (fn/vf), **Uncanny X-Men** 1 (fn/vf), **Incredible Hulk** 1 (fn/vf), **Fantastic Four** (fn/vf). Viewing is by appointment only, based in Kent area. Will sell as lot for £22,000 ono. Call Jay on 07921 435841. Discount for cash payment.

Wanted

Advertisers are reminded that Wanted ads must be no longer than 50 words (including address), and only single insertion private advertisements can be published free of charge.

Wanted: Planning a Steve Ditko fanzine. Please send copies of any Ditko articles, indexes and contributions to Steve Nottingham, 37 Maxwell Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks HP9 1RG.

Announcements

Fanzine and small press titles must not be offered for sale before being printed. To verify publication, a sample copy must be sent in along with the advertising copy (50 words max).

C78 #1! New from the creators of **Bionic Benny** and **Parataxis**! The superheroes of Atomic City are under attack by Doppelganger! Meanwhile Bruce Willis adjusts to a life of flat-sharing as *Cousin Brucie* begins! £1 from Bionic Comics, 57 Henley Drive, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 2RF or see www.hammersons.co.uk/page8.htm for Paypal!

The supersoap continues! Original O Men members Grace and Stuart have finally been reunited, after three years – but will they live happily ever after? Find out in **O Men** #2.3 – out now! £1 from Martin Eden, 11a Gatestone Road, Upper Norwood, London SE19 3AT or go to www.comix.org.uk/theomen.

Andersonic – new Gerry Anderson/*Century 21* fanzine for sale. 40 A5 pages, featuring Scarlet, UFO, Thunderbirds, Space 1999, Dennis Spooner, Doppelganger. Issues 2 and 3 available, £2 each or £3.70 for both. Contact R. Farrell, 11 Stevenson Drive, Wirral, Cheshire CH63 9AH.

Faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound... yep, **Comics Retrospective** 30 is dedicated tot he one and only man of steel himself, Superman! Available now. £1.40 from Tony Ingram, 3 Lower Harlings, Shotley Gate, Ipswich, Suffolk IP9 1QE.

Mythos 2 is now on sale! 24 pages, black and white interior with colour covers. A dark, humorous superhero comic with mature content. Available for £2 from www.swancomics.tk, e-mail info@swancomcis.tk or write to Stephen Aryan, 1a William Royd Lane, West Yorkshire WF16 9SA.

Omnivistascope 2 – This 76-page, perfect-bound SF spectacular features largely self-contained stories of humour, action, horror and romance. £6 from P. Scott, 13 Kiln Crescent, Bishop Middleham, Ferryhill DL17 9AP. Also the first critically acclaimed issue is £5 (or both for £10).

Burnt Soul Graphic Novel by Kieran Murphy with pencils and inks by Marco Tarditti/inks (Episode One): Eric Jocson. A serial killer stalks the Dublin suburb of Ballyrunner hunting down and killing drug dealers. He is wrath and they will fear him. From Coscom Entertainmnent. Visit www.coscomentertainment.com/burntsoulgraphicnovel for details. Price just $12.95.

Paragon 2 is now available! 24 A4 pages with three separate strips featuring black magic, rampaging hormones and overprotective fathers; lighthearted hitmen and Japanese demon hunters (think a cross between Hammer Films' *Captain Kronos* and **Warrior**'s *Father Shandor)*. Oh, and Doug McClure! Only £2.50 (including p&p) from Dave Candlish, 5 Cedarway, Whitehills, Tyne & Wear NE10 8LD.

Comic Societies

The Beano & Dandy Collectors' Club invites members for its first year. Receive exclusive incentives and three A4 colour newsletters. UK £18, Europe £21, Worldwide £24. For more details and a subscription form please visit www.phil-comics.com or write: PO Box 3433, Brighton, BN50 9JA, UK. Tel: 01273 673462. Email: beano-dandy@phil-comics.com

Join The Eagle Society, dedicated to the memory of Britain's National Strip Cartoon Weekly – The Eagle 1950-1969. For just £18 per year (cheques to The Eagle Society) members receive our quarterly journal **Eagle Times**, as well as the chance to attend social gatherings and meet original Eagle contributors. Write to: Keith Howard, 25a Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2UA. Or e-mail: rsheaf @npg.org.uk

The Comics Creators Guild for industry veterans and aspiring professionals, the largest comics organisation in Europe. Monthly meetings, newsletter, exclusive publications, free legal advice, special discounts and more. For further information contact: Comics Creators Guild, 22 St James Mansions, West End Lane, West Hampstead, London NW6 2AA. www.comicscreators.org.uk

Comic & Card Events

THE NATIONAL COLLECTORS MARKETPLACE™

ROYAL NATIONAL HOTEL
BEDFORD WAY
LONDON WC1
DOORS OPEN 12 NOON
ADMISSION FREE

2007
SUNDAY
JULY
29

2000 AD
ACTION FIGURES
ANIME
BRITISH ANNUALS
BRITISH COMICS
COMIC BOOK SUPPLIES
CULT DVD
DOCTOR WHO
GAMING CARDS
GOLDEN AGE COMICS
GRAPHIC NOVELS
HEROCLIX
LATEST IMPORT COMICS
MANGA
NEWSPAPER STRIPS
NON-SPORTS CARDS
ORIGINAL ARTWORK
POSTERS
SCI FI/FANTASY
SCULPTURES
SILVER AGE COMICS
SPORTS CARDS
STAR TREK
STAR WARS
TOYS
TRADING CARD SUPPLIES

Hulk Copyright © 2007 Marvel Characters Inc

With 130+ tables, the National is the largest regular marketplace for comicbook and trading card collectors in the U.K. You will also find a whole range of related materials including TV, Film, Fantasy, Sci-fi and Toys from leading British & international dealers.
A refreshments counter and bar will be open next to the venue.

HOW TO GET THERE. BUS: 7, 68, 91, 168 or 188 to Woburn Place. UNDERGROUND: Piccadilly Line to Russell Square. NATIONAL RAIL: Euston and Kings Cross are within walking distance of the venue.

FUTURE DATES: 29TH JULY, 7TH OCTOBER (with ABC Show), 4TH NOVEMBER 2007

Dealers: for table availability phone 020 7476 6873

www.comicmart.co.uk

Events

A summary of all the events advertised this issue

July

14/7-2/9 Nottingham: Cult Fiction Art and Comics Exhibition
Castle Museum and Art Gallery ... (p85)

27/7 Nationwide: Transformers movie opens ... (p10)

28/7 Sheffield: Comic Mart & Card Show,
Sheffield Hallam University, Howard Street ... (p52)

29/7 Birmingham: Comic Mart & Card Show,
Novotel Hotel, Broad Street (off Paradise Circus) ... (p52)

29/7 London: Alan Class signing,
30th Century Comics, 18 Lower Richmond Road, SW15 ... (p45)

29/7 London: The National Collectors' Marketplace,
The Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, WC1 ... (p98)

August

2-4/8 Dallas Texas and via Internet: Heritage Auction of Original Comic Art, 3500 Maple Avenue, Dallas, Texas, USA ... (p5)

4/8 Newcastle: Comic Mart & Card Show, Rutherford Hall,
University of Northumbria, Ellison Place, off College St ... (p52)

11/8 Manchester: Comic Mart & Card Show,
Sachas Hotel, Tib Street, Piccadilly ... (p52)

25/8 Nottingham: Comic Mart & Card Show, Nottingham Arena at the
National Ice Centre, Bolero Square, The Lace Market ... (p52)

September

1/9 Leeds: Comic Mart & Card Show, Leeds Metropolitan University, Leslie
Silver Bldg, Woodhouse Ln (across from Brunswick & Merrion Way) (p52)

9/9 Birmingham: Comic Mart & Card Show,
Novotel Hotel, Broad Street (off Paradise Circus) ... (p52)

15/9 Sheffield: Comic Mart & Card Show,
Sheffield Hallam University, Howard Street ... (p52)

27/9-11/11 Leeds: Cult Fiction Art and Comics Exhibition,
Leeds City Art Gallery ... (p85)

29/9 Manchester: Comic Mart & Card Show,
Sachas Hotel, Tib Street, Piccadilly ... (p52)

30/9 Liverpool: Comic Mart & Card Show,
Marriott Hotel, Queen Square (behind St Georges Hall) ... (p52)

October

6/10 Leeds: Comic Mart & Card Show, Leeds Metropolitan University, Leslie
Silver Bldg, Woodhouse Ln (across from Brunswick & Merrion Way) (p52)

7/10 London: The National Collectors' Marketplace and The ABC Show, The Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, WC1 ... (p98)

13-14/10 Birmingham: Birmingham International Comics Show – special guest Mike Mignola, Thinktank, Millennium Point, Curzon Street ... (p99)

13/10 Newcastle: Comic Mart & Card Show, Rutherford Hall,
University of Northumbria, Ellison Place, off College St ... (p52)

20/10 Nottingham: Comic Mart & Card Show, Nottingham Arena at the
National Ice Centre, Bolero Square, The Lace Market ... (p52)

November

3-4/11 Bristol: Bristol International Manga Expo,
The Mercure Holland House Hotel, Redcliff Way ... (p75)

4/11 London: The National Collectors' Marketplace,
The Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, WC1 ... (p98)

9/10 Sheffield: Comic Mart & Card Show,
Sheffield Hallam University, Howard Street ... (p52)

11/11 Birmingham: Comic Mart & Card Show,
Novotel Hotel, Broad Street (off Paradise Circus) ... (p52)

17/11-13/1 Aberystwyth: Cult Fiction Art and Comics Exhibition,
Aberystwyth Arts Centre ... (p85)

17/11 Manchester: Comic Mart & Card Show,
Sachas Hotel, Tib Street, Piccadilly ... (p52)

18/11 Liverpool: Comic Mart & Card Show,
Marriott Hotel, Queen Square (behind St Georges Hall) ... (p52)

SPECIAL GUESTS NOW CONFIRMED:

MIKE MIGNOLA

Artwork © DC Comics 2007 all rights reserved.

Hellboy™ © Mike Mignola 2007 all rights reserved.

KEVIN NOWLAN

The Birmingham International Comics Show is back… bigger and better than ever! The annual event moves to a prestigious new venue – The Thinktank at Millennium Point for the weekend of October 13th-14th.

With an all-star line-up of international comics celebrities and publishers, the finest dealers and a jam-packed programme of extra-special events and competitions with prizes and give-aways to be won all weekend long!

ALAN DAVIS, DAVE GIBBONS,

CHARLIE ADLARD, MARK BUCKINGHAM, MIKE CAREY, GARY ERSKINE, MARK FARMER, DUNCAN FEGREDO, ADI GRANOV, STAZ JOHNSON, GARRY LEACH, TONY LEE, SEAN PHILLIPS, KEV F SUTHERLAND, BRYAN TALBOT, PHIL WINSLADE, ANDI WATSON and many more...

OCTOBER 13-14 THINKTANK

MILLENNIUM POINT CURZON STREET BIRMINGHAM B4 7XG

BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL
COMICS SHOW 2007

Enter the National Comic Art Competition. Visit our website for more details.

NATIONAL COMIC ART COMPETITION 2007

for more info please visit: **www.thecomicsshow.co.uk** email: **info@thecomicsshow.co.uk**

MARVEL ZOMBIES™
MARVEL Select™
MARVEL
DIAMOND SELECT TOYS
DIG DEEP ENTERTAINMENT
COMIC SHOP LOCATOR SERVICE
888-COMIC-BOOK
comicshoplocator.com

Spider-Man Action Figure

Removable limbs!

Infectious contagion!

Silver Surfer leftovers included

Based on the best-selling miniseries, Marvel Zombies are invading Marvel Select – beginning with everyone's favorite zombie web-head, Spider-Man! Designed by Marvel Toys and sculpted by DIG DEEP ENTERTAINMENT, Zombie Spider-Man marks the first (but certainly not last) character to join the ranks of Marvel Select.

TO PURCHASE VISIT WWW.DIAMONDSELECTTOYS.COM OR YOUR LOCAL COMIC SHOP.

RETAILERS: To order, or for more information on Diamond UK's selection of toys and other products, and on becoming a Diamond UK Customer, please contact IAN MCMILLAN by phone at: 019 2540-1400.

www.marvel.com

www.diamondselecttoys.com

MARVEL, Spider-Man TM & © 2007 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. www.marvel.com. Diamond Select Toys and Collectibles is a trademark of Diamond Select Toys and Collectibles, LLC. © 2007 Diamond Select Toys and Collectibles. All Rights Reserved. Final product may vary.